

Digimon Zero Eins

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Summary: 7 humans have been chosen to take up the roles of "Chosen Children", alongside their Digimon partners as they must face a perilous threat that threatens both worlds. Join their epic adventure across both worlds as they face off against strong foes and most importantly, learn more about themselves and each other as they come to accept their grand destinies.

1. It has begun

****Author's Note: I do not own Digimon in anyway. Please enjoy this story of mine. I am open to any form of criticism so that it helps to improve my writing. Please read and review.****

****Chapter 1: It has begun****

_Ye, Children of Man

>Thy born of human flesh
Shall answer the call of destiny

>7 Chosen Ones shall rise
Vested to them are the powers to
challenge the rotating wheel

>With power comes consequences
If you truly wish to conquer all

>You must not only be wary of the enemy your eyes perceive
But the
demons within

>Only then, children of man, shall you find the destination you
seek
Children of man

>Thou stand at the edge
You are neither angels nor demons

>Yet thou possesses both their powers
Angels and Demons, it
matters not

>From dust and binary two worlds have risen
To dust and binary
they shall return if you fail

>The end draws near
Time moves on

>Soon two shall become one
And light shall fade from both_

_Time is valuable and it is ending

>If you wish to challenge fate itself
If you wish to alter the
course of destiny

>Then heed my call Chosen Children
Stand at the boundary alongside
your power incarnates_

The night was dark and the stars were not there to observe Wallace. The brown haired, tall and lean young man sighed. He wondered whether he would miss this sky. There was no guarantee that his destination held the same sky.

He adjusted his unzipped mauve hoodie revealing a white sweat shirt which he wore along with dark blue jeans. From his neck hung a pendant in the shape of a wolf's claw, which he then held near his face. Wallace had affection for such accessories. He hardly had the chance to wear them in his early lives as no one bothered to buy one for him. An object of affection that pendant was, it was also an object that brought up its fair share of memories both good and bad.

"Why do you want to just run away from everything?" He recalled the anger in the voice of the person who gifted him that pendant. Underneath that anger however was worry.

"Kyrieâ€|" Wallace tucked the pendant under his clothes. He didn't know why but he was a nomad by nature. Restless he was, never finding any sense of satisfaction in staying at the same place for a long time. Orphaned from a young age his repeated transitions from foster home to foster home had bred in him a lack of any ability to connect himself with anyone or anything.

"Ariaâ€|" Yet a small part of his heart was aching for the two people that had treated him like a brother. He wouldn't mind being scolded. It was better than looking at the empty air around you.

"Wallace?" A shadow popped out from the bushes. Wallace turned his head and gave a slight hint of a smile.

A jet black wolf like creature slowly emerged. It's body was as black as void with hard grey armor like protrusions around the shoulders, front legs and head. It's claws were as red as fresh blood and around its head were two red glowing claw marks that served as its eyes.

"Hey there, Fangmon" the boy greeted the creature, "had a good walk?"

"Yes" the voice was quite soft- feminine to a degree. "Is Aria here yet?"

"No, not yet" Wallace decided to sit down on a nearby bench which also had his large traveler's bag on it. "The park's nice, isn't it?"

"Yes" the pitch black creature replied.

Hyde Park really was beautiful, Wallace thought. He often came here. Fangmon liked the place too especially during the night when there were no stars like this one.

He felt a refreshing wind blow through.

"It's a bit chilly" Wallace remarked though Fangmon didn't comment on

it.

"You scared?" The boy asked knowing how silly that sounded.

"I should be asking you that", came the brisk reply. "Are you sure you want to go to the Digital World now?"

Wallace sighed. He was scared but at the end he really didn't care enough. "I don't know about you Digimon, but someday us humans are all gonna die and disappear. We keep telling ourselves that we're special but we're not. I don't know how long I'll live. Might as well see as much as I can while I'm alive."

"Whatever you say."

Wallace heard footsteps. He got up as he saw a petite girl; 12 years old run towards him. The girl had short black hair, a fair complexion and hazel eyes. She wore a green dress.

"Hey there, Aria" Wallace greeted the girl who stopped to catch her breath.

"You're already ready to leave?" The girl asked.

"Yeah."

There was silence as the two looked at each other. Wallace at last walked up to her, crouching so that his forehead touched hers. He put a hand on her head.

"Be good" Wallace said.

"Take me with you!" The girl suddenly had tears in her eyes. "I don't like this world. I want to go with you along with Qingmon!"

Wallace looked sad. "Sorry but you can't go." Wallace brushed her hair. "Don't worry. I'll be back and I'll take you to the Digital World one day."

Aria was happy at that prospect. "You will?"

"Yes." It was a lie. He didn't want to but he couldn't bear the sad look on her face. Happiness was momentary and never eternal.

Wallace got up and walked towards the fountain along with Fangmon. He proceeded to take out a black and grey device from his pocket. He tapped some buttons and soon the magic happened.

The fountain started to gush out water rapidly and a vertical cascading tower of water formed. The boy extended his hand as it phased through the wall of water.

"Wallace!" The boy turned as she saw the girl run up towards him with her hand reached out.

"See ya" Wallace backed up as his body started to disappear. Fangmon leapt and soon both of them disappeared.

The girl stopped as the wind died and the water flow returned to normal. She waited a bit before she left unaware of the girl who had

observed all this from behind her hiding place.

"You really had to leave didn't you, Wallace?" The girl muttered as she wiped the tears around her hazel eyes and too left.

Tapping his feet in accordance to the music blaring through the headphones, the blonde young man concentrated at the singular white piece of paper which he had already dyed with black ink in his personal standard font. With the help of the music he had encapsulated himself away from the storm of undecipherable noise common during the school lunch break. This had always been his favourite spot under the large oak tree erected during a community service project by the school provided ample shade and protection. The spot was located at the edge of the school grounds so away from the greater source of noise.

As the song was reaching the upbeat part, the blonde teen stopped twirling his pen and instead started tapping the table, having synchronized his muscles to the beat from listening to it so many times. He was entranced by music and considered it one of man's greatest forms of art. Taking inspiration from the lyrics being recited he would give form to the intricate tale upon the page and unveil the message of the essay he was working on in a stunning conclusion. Such was his task and talent.

Away from the watchful eyes of people, the young blonde felt a sense of security. He started to hum. He was not used to singing in a group or being critiqued and was quite shy about it. The emotions hidden in the lyrics and the beat were encouraging him. "Sing with us" and he did. He recited the words and synchronized his voice with the phantom singer. Hypnotized by the cadence of the song he closed his eyes and sang along in his soft yet harmonious voice. He felt like he existed in a different plane away from this Earth. This was his brief moment of elation.

As last words were said and the music slowly died away he could hear the rustling of leaves. As the foliage descended upon the earth like drifting feathers the young man had heard all that was needed. He knew what to write. The story was entitled "Reunion" and the story was that of a girl waiting for her lover who had gone to war with the promise that upon his return the two would marry each other. The setting was simple enough and the writer knew how it would end. The boy would die and return as a dead body and the marriage ceremony that the girl dreamed would be a funeral procession. That would be their reunion. The boy couldn't find it in himself to end it in a happy note. Such happiness was unreal.

"Seriously, Noel. It's just an English assignment."

She seemed a part of the light. It was the voice that surprised him and woke him from his moment of euphoria.

"Julia— you were watching?" Noel asked.

The girl smiled a smile which served to compliment her heart shaped face and radiant complexion. "Your singing is really wonderful."

Julia "Jules" Verde was Noel Keith's childhood friend having attended the same primary school. As long as he could remember Julia had

always been beautiful even when she was young with flowing chestnut hair, the bangs resting on her forehead and striking violet eyes that sparkled like gem stones. She always bore a smile on her face and her caring and responsible attitude had made the young blonde look up to her as an older sister.

"Guess I should feel lucky for being able to hear that voice of yours" Julia joked. "Cause you hardly sing in front of anyone".

It was true though. Noel Keith, 17, was of average height and of a scrawny build. An introvert and a thinker, Noel, if allowed, could spend his days inside passing his time by thinking of anything he considers worth thinking about and reading any book within hand's reach. As a result Noel avoids contact with anyone outside of his small circle of confidants. Truth is that he isn't really interested in making friends and not that he lacked the ability to befriend someone.

"Savor it" Noel replied.

"Speaking of savoring things" Julia pushed a tray towards the male teen, "here's your pizza. Savor it".

Noel took the tray for himself and slowly took up a slice towards his mouth. The cheese was still fresh along with the anchovies and mushroom. He was careful so as it would not come apart. His delicate handling soon bore fruit as he gripped the delicacy between his teeth and tore into it. He then slowly chewed with the girl watching him.

"I'll never understand you" Julia remarked.

The teen kept on chewing- an act to annoy the girl. When he was done he replied, "You're a vegetarian. How are you alive?" Noel pointed to the vegetable salad the girl opposite to him was dining on.

"Stereotype" Julia replied to which Noel smirked.

They tried to observe the rest of their lunch in silence but lady fate had other plans.

Noel felt a hand on his shoulder. He turned back to look at its owner and saw a young man with tanned skin who was much taller and stockier than him. His messy, jet black hair was like a mop over his head and he had a small goatee.

"Ain't ya gonna share with your best buddy in the world, Noel?" It was Hiran Kumar, a Sri Lankan exchange student. As evidenced by his rugged body, Hiran was an avid football player who quickly rose to fame with his easy going persona and skills as a top defender for the school football team. His prowess as an athlete was remarkable excelling in sprinting and occasionally wrestling if he felt up to it. Although a bit loud and boisterous, he had a good heart which may have been the only explanation as to how he ended up as one of Noel's friends. That and the fact that Noel was the only one to regularly help him regarding studies.

"Jump off a cliff" came Noel's straight faced answer.

"Sheesh" Hiran shrugged, "to call you a friend".

"Call me whatever you want. Just let me eat my food" Noel dived ravenously into the delicacy.

"Man, you're so heartless" Hiran commented brushing his long hair back. "Where's Eric?"

"You're the last one I expected to ask for my presence" Eric Dunbar, a tall 17 year old youth with a fair complexion and neatly combed brown hair made his way towards the group. His piercing black eyes and sharp cut features of his face gave off an intellectual vibe which was not at all wrong. Eric was a prodigy, specializing in computers and mathematics. Though his knowledge extended even further to the likes of art and writing which resulted in Noel and him becoming fast friends and having long winded conversations.

"Don't get used to it" Hiran replied earning a smirk in return from Eric. It was impossible to say what really constituted the friendship between those two. Their common interest lied on their love for football. While Eric didn't play often both were avid fans and often Eric made time to help the Sri Lankan improve his game.

"Well since everyone's here" the Sri Lankan began, "I'd like to say something. I have a football match next week and would like to invite you guys there."

"That's all?" Eric asked sporting an incredulous look on his face.

"Yeah, that's all", came the reply.

"Okay, I'm going" Eric replied to which Hiran smiled.

"Me too" Julia perked up at the thought.

"So that only leavesâ€¦|.."

He didn't want to go, but he couldn't say that could he?

"I'll think about it" Noel tried to give a convincing smile.

"Fine" Hiran grunted a bit. It was hard to lie to people who knew you well enough.

"C'mon" Eric nudged, "you could use the sunâ€¦|. and a ball to the face". The remark was met with mock laughter by the one at whom it was aimed at.

"Sorry" Noel looked away, "just don't feel like it".

"Yeah whatever" The Sri Lankan student shrugged his shoulders.

"Hey guys" Julia took the lead before the conversation would turn even more somber. "Class is about to resume".

"Yeah. I kind of have a watch Miss Obvious and I can read it" the techie showed off his expensive silver watch.

"Show-off" Julia said deadpan.

"Ass" Hiran said deadpan.

Noel remained oblivious to it all though. It was the same during the next set of classes. "Like clockwork" he thought. When the blessed bell had sounded Noel impatiently ran back home. He wanted to stay away from people. He couldn't say why. It was in his nature. He hated crowded places.

"Oh, you're home Noel" Ms Keith was alerted by the creaking of the door and glimpsed her son coming in.

"Yeah, Mom" Noel replied in a voice barely audible. He made his way to his room.

He slumped onto his bed and pretended to sleep. In reality he was thinking.

He was thinking of death.

He wondered whether it would be like sleeping forever. Or would it be like wandering like a person who had lost both his senses of hearing and sight? What was the afterlife like anyways?

He could find out.

"Noel" the voice was faint and yet it freed the boy from his thoughts. He wasn't startled. He knew who the voice belonged to.

"Bokhramon? What's up?" Noel tried to smile at the creature which seemed to have been hiding under his bed. Said creature was a much smaller variant of a mountain goat. Its snow white fur gave away its kindhearted nature along with its eyes- a shade similar to that of a bright sunny sky. It had two long black horns which had one silver ring on each one and over its white fur was a layer of black fur acting as a coat of sorts.

"Nothing much" came the timid reply, "are you feeling all right?"

The creature called itself a "Digimon" short for a Digital Monster. It had been a few years since the creature came into his household. Noel was hesitant but didn't succeed in getting rid of it. The blonde boy found it odd that his mother consented to keeping a digital goat monster in the house. Could be that being a digital life form meant that basic needs needn't be met. Bokhramon could take care of itself. It explained about the Digital World, the place where it originated from, and that it along with 6 other creatures were sent to the human world to look for humans to partner with.

"Just a bit sleepy" Noel tried to smile, "don't worry about it". Although he was against the idea of letting the strange digital life form live in his house, at the present he couldn't say that he had any problems. Bokhramon had grown on him. The idea of bonding to a goat was very strange indeed- and that was not getting into the idea of journeying with said goat into an unknown world with some unknown people that probably had wolves and dragons for partners in order to fight some unknown evil. Also equally, if not more strange, was the device Bokhramon gave to him, which much to Noel's surprise (not) was

called a Digivice. He wondered what it did. If he found out that the thing allowed him to transform into some Power Ranger wannabe he would instantly resign from the whole "Chosen Children" business. Although it would be cool. Especially if there were giant robot battles.

"If you say so" the goat relented.

"Bokhramon?" The Digimon perked up at the sound of its name.

"Yes, Noel?"

"Do you miss your friends?"

The Digimon nodded but didn't look sad for some strange reason. "I do miss them, but I have you as a friend. Whenever you're here I feel happy".

"You see me as a friend?" Noel was bewildered. "I thought you just needed us humans so that you could gain more strength?"

"That doesn't mean we can't be friends" Bokhramon tilted its head.

"Can an accumulation of data feel emotion and understand such abstract thoughts?" Noel thought. Is a being like Bokhramon really alive? He could only think that Digimon were but paradoxical creatures. It was at that moment that he realized where his line of thinking was leading him to.

"I'm sorry, Bokhramon" Noel blurted out.

The recipient of the apology appeared confused. "You didn't do anything wrong".

"I haven't been a good friend to you".

"You did care for me and show concern" Bokhramon began, "I don't know how humans make friends, but if you truly care for someone then he or she isn't a stranger. He or she could only be your friend."

Noel smiled. "Yeah I guess so". The outlook of life was simple and yet deep. He drifted back to sleep which suddenly came easy now that he was not flooded with thoughts. Bokhramon went back under his shelter.

It was sudden.

The world started to shake.

"Woah, what the heck?" Noel was dumbfounded by the quake as he fell to the ground from his bed. The effects of sleep were still there rendering his motions and thinking sluggish.

"Noel!" Bokhramon cried or more like bleated.

The shaking was huge. Noel thought for a second- a very frightening second- that the house would fall apart. An earthquake like this in London was unprecedented. The strength at which the ground was vibrating was calamitous. When the shaking seemed to have gained a

rhythm and the effects of sleep having completely left, the boys' thoughts shifted.

"Mom!" Noel was screaming at the top of his lungs. "Mom!" He shouted once more as he made a break for it. Bokhramon was close at his heels crying his name.

"Mom!" Noel saw his mother crouching under the table. Dishes that lined the table were now strewn across the expensive carpet. He slowed down. The shaking had died down. He had to be careful of aftershocks though.

When the ground had showed no signs of revolting Noel slowly approached Ms Keith and helped her up. He quickly searched for any injuries his mother had sustained.

"Are you hurt? Did your skin get cut? Should I call a doc-"

"I'm okay" Ms Keith gave a soft smile so that her point could get across to her son.

"Are you sure?" Noel wasn't convinced.

Ms Keith nodded. "I'm sure, dear".

Noel then proceeded to help his mother clean the floor.

"I wonder what the damage to the city is like" Ms Keith pondered brushing away her golden blonde hair from her face as she swept the floor.

Noel worked on silently. He was almost done on his end whenâ€¦

"An aftershock?" Noel felt the shaking again.

"Noel" Bokhramon, who had been silent for so long, spoke up. "I sense something."

The duo made their way outside.

"Do you see that Noel?" Bokhramon steeled himself.

Noel nodded nervously. He couldn't miss it after all.

It was not every day you saw two giant dragon Digimon duke it out in the middle of Londonâ€¦..

2. First Contact

Chapter 2: First Contact

The creature resembled a copper dragon with metallic blue streaks adorning his battle scarred body. It was quite injured and neither sibling could think of anything that could hurt it. It looked dead but the breathing was faint and its body was still warm. They had stumbled upon this creature that was sheltering in the vicinity of their house.

"What is it, Kevin?" The tanned girl pointed to the copper dragon.

She had short auburn hair and black granite eyes.

"Don't know" Kevin, who looked quite similar to his sister shrugged his shoulders.

It was then that the creature began to shift restlessly.

"It's moving" Gina muttered.

"Humansâ€¦" The dragon growled-or more like hissed.

"What do we do, Kevin?" The girl looked to her brother for advice. Despite being twins, Kevin had assumed a role akin to that of a big brother.

The dragon stared into the eyes of the boy who was condemned into making a decision. "Leave me be" was the expected answer. It would have to fend for itself as always. The advancing footsteps had alerted it.

The skin was rough and battered and the dragon's body was exhaling heat. "C'mon, we'll take care of ya" Kevin hugged the dragon close to his body. The dragon was confused at this act but it decided to go with it.

Surrendering itself to the human's care had led the scaly creature to a large room that was quite well decorated.

"You can rest here" Kevin laid the creature upon a soft mat and stroked its head. The dragon enjoyed it for a moment before pulling away.

"Tough customer" the 14 year old teen muttered under his breath. His thoughts were interrupted by a light poke.

"What do we do if mom or dad finds out? They hardly let us keep a cat. A dragon is outta the question" Gina tried to show as much anger and worry as possible in a whisper. The last thing she wanted to do was explain to her parents why a dragon was making itself comfortable in their house.

"A dragon can breathe fire right-"

"Don't even think about it" Gina stopped Kevin before he could finish his line of thought.

"Fine" Kevin grunted, "I was just joking. Don't worry I'll make sure they don't find this guy".

Gina was a bit worried by that last sentence. What were the chances their parents barged in right when Kevin finished what he had to say? Thank God that didn't happen. She had her doubts about this but she couldn't help herself as she advanced towards their "pet" dragon and start stroking his head.

"Oh so when she does it, you enjoy it" Kevin looked a little hurt in the ego but other than that was fine as usual.

"Her hands her soft and caring" the draconian creature retorted.

"See?" Gina smiled a wide grin.

It was then that the dragon began to shift restlessly.

"What's wrong?" Worry became present in Kevin's eyes.

"I have an important thing to ask of you" the dragon took out a device from under him. The device resembled an iPod and was blue and brown in colour. "I am a Digital Monster or a Digimon and I have come here from the Digital World" and thus the explanation continued covering topics in brief.

"That's a lot to take in" Gina was overwhelmed.

"Here comes the kicker. I won't force either of you but I need a human partner. The dangers are real and if you do agree to my wish then you'll find yourself in a series of battles that will determine the fate of both our worlds. Like I said, I won't push you. Think carefully. Once you accept you can't turn back. If you disagree then forget we ever met and I'll go somewhere else to find someone".

Suddenly the jovial atmosphere had turned solemn. Here two teenagers were entrusted with a task to protect both worlds. Not an everyday choice.

"According to you there are others who are faced with this same decision" Kevin felt a need to confirm some things.

"Yes. There are 6 other Digimon, so 6 other humans provided the other Digimon survive" the creature replied.

"So only we can do this? So only we can make a difference?" Kevin stared into the golden eyes of the dragon.

A silent nod was given.

"If you don't want to its-" a hand was reached out towards the draconic Digimon.

"Kevin?" Gina could only stare at the agreement that would take place.

"Partners" Kevin muttered.

"No backing down, the digivice will make sure of that" the dragon grasped the device in its hand and then extended it towards Kevin. They shook their hand and claw. A neon blue light flashed up.

"Registering fingerprintâ€¦" a mechanical voice spoke. "Registering Chosen Childâ€¦"

The light kept on flashing. Probably more formalities. It seemed like that the boy would be bound by a digital contract of sorts. "Link established" and like that the partnership was sealed.

"Viperdramon" the dragon returned the stare with its piercing emerald green eyes.

"Kevin" the boy didn't back down.

That was a blissful memory from long ago. 4 years to be exact. A sudden change in life doesn't always come so suddenly. It always seems like that. One is never aware of the small subtle changes and acts that foreshadow that change. Until destiny comes knocking at your door in the guise of a guest.

Although meeting a digital dragon that came from an alien world was indeed very strange, the succeeding events that Kevin were to face were even more so-so much so that that particular memory would seem normal in comparison.

That was to be the intended life of a "Chosen Children"- the ones who stand at the boundary between the two worlds along with their sentinels.

Viperdramon shifted lazily from lying on his back to lying on its stomach. Although the snake dragon didn't know where the other Digimon were he still hoped they were all equally comfortable in the shelter they had found. Viperdramon had little to complain about other than the morning when both the residents of the house were absent. Now that both their parents had left to go somewhere the Digimon savored the feelings of freedom. Granted there was still the house maid but his senses were not that dull so that he would be outsmarted. If he was though, he'd have a hard time facing the other Digimon so there was that to worry about.

He looked at Kevin who was busy working on his "home work" as he calls it. Viperdramon had failed to see the point in that as actual experience was much more crucial than reading about it. If someone had told him to read a book and fight a pack of Goblimon then he would throw the book away and start busting some heads. He would learn things on the fly. "It's different" Kevin replied. Naturally that led to an even more confused Viperdramon who later decided to drop the subject.

In between solving math problems Kevin made quick glances at the clock. Viperdramon knew what it was for. Gina had left to go attend some friend's birthday. It was awfully quiet without her. Gina was the more cheerful and kind of the twins. That was not to say that Kevin did not possess said qualities. Kevin was equally, if not more, caring but only to a select few individuals. Outside of this household though, most knew Kevin as a tough loner who rarely showed any emotion. The dragon Digimon felt a strange understanding of his outside persona, considering it similar to how a predator must act to survive. Dragon Digimon, known as Dramon in his world, were naturally feared in the Digital World but despite their fierce appearance and destructive powers many were heroes like the mighty Wargreymon and the legendary Digimon in the V-mon evolutionary line.

Kevin got up and proceeded to take out some clothes from his wardrobe to wear. "It's almost 9" he said to himself.

"Kevin" the dragon hissed and pointed towards the table with his coal black claws.

"Fine" Kevin grunted as he took the digivice and put it into his left pant pocket before leaving. "I'll be going, then".

Tom stood in the hallways with coffee mug in hand, thinking. It had been a few years since he had started working for D.A.R.P.C (Digital Anomaly Research and Prevention Centre). It was that day when he had graduated from a prestigious IT university. Everyone had promised him that he would make it big. While the salary here was nothing to scoff at, he never thought that work would be such a mundane affair. Here he was processing data after data. It could be attributed to being a human being since they were hardly satisfied.

At least there was Ada, his work partner. A prodigious Chinese researcher on computers, she was the only one Tom had maintained a friendly relationship with. Although there were other scientists, Tom hardly interacted with them and only did when it concerned work. Ada was different. She was beautiful to look at and would always talk about things like her family and her plans for the future. Tom would enjoy the chats he had with her.

God, he was in love. He couldn't believe it. A computer geek falling in love.

"Hello there, Tom" a tall and well built man walked in and greeted Tom. Said man looked quite dignified in his custom lab coat. His face had sharp features and he had shoulder length black hair. He wore shades due to having some eye condition-something he told Tom long ago.

"Oh, Lysandre, I'm sorry for slacking off. I'll go back to work right away" Tom tried to leave but the man told him to stay.

"It's alright" Lysandre smiled, "work is stressful. Relax for awhile".

The man was Tom's boss. Tom had always thought that bosses were meant to be the demon incarnates but Lysandre proved him wrong. He couldn't help but feel a bit inferior whenever he was around. Despite his cordial behavior he managed to demand respect, something Tom could never do. Tom used to be the laughing stock of his class. He felt a bit of resentment and couldn't help but feel that he now had the last laugh.

Whenever he saw Lysandre, feelings he experienced during his youth resurfaced back. They even contrasted each other. Tom's messy black hair and average looking face made him look bad in comparison. Then there was his friendly relationship with Ada. Maybe he was over thinking things but he couldn't help feel uneasy whenever Ada talked to him, a smile on her face.

"I often think of how bleak life would be if there was no such thing as coffee. Life would be as black as black coffee then wouldn't it." Lysandre began as Tom took another sip. "Quite a nightmare I would say. Only this nightmare you would see when you're awake. Coffee is a wondrous thing isn't it". Lysandre often thought about mundane things like the one he was going on about currently. He had a wide outlook on life. Tom somehow came to appreciate that.

"Yeah" Tom nodded, "couldn't live without it".

"Oh yes, indeed" Lysandre smiled. For such a dignified adult he did have a somewhat goofy smile.

There was just an inch of black liquid left swirling at the bottom of the white mug. Tom may have drunk it too fast as he felt a burning sensation on his tongue. He decided to endure it for now.

"Well, let's go back to work then" and both of them made their way back.

The laboratory was quite well constructed. The only thing Tom had to complain about would have been the poor lighting. Other than that the male scientist was quite satisfied. Working air conditioners and spacious sections of the room had made it a comfortable place to work in. Perhaps the best thing would have been the lack of papers. Such was part of the ideal office Tom envisioned. He had always disliked writing on paper which may have stemmed from him being scolded for his hard to decipher hand writing during his childhood. He would always perform a task much better on an electronic device almost all the time.

Work was a mundane affair. All he had to do was process data after data. Nothing interesting happens, other than glancing at Ada from time to time. Tom did feel a little guilty about it.

When Tom returned to his work he saw something strange. He disregarded it as a fault in the system but it was then that someone spoke up.

"Hey, what the heck is this?" Some irate scientist stared into the screen trying to fix the anomaly.

Tom couldn't believe it. There was a huge irregularity in the flow of data.

"Lysandre!" Tom beckoned his boss to come and look. At the corner of his eyes he saw Ada's face suddenly pale with worry.

"This digital distortionâ€¦ It's huge" Tom observed.

"A distortion this size would cause almost all electronics in London to go haywire. Even the lab will have a hard time getting through this" Lysandre concluded.

It was then at that moment that Tom questioned whether he was suffering from some stress induced mental problems or not. He began to see lettersâ€¦no words spout out from the computer screen.

"I want to get out of here" the text said.

To make it even worse different computers showed different words.

"I've had enough"

"Damn it, where's the exit?"

"Keh Keh" the text appeared on Tom's computer. From what he could deduce at that moment he could say that all of those words were actually being said, an audio record or something, and were being converted into text.

"The firewall is over there"

"So the human world lies on the other side."

This had to be some sort of prank by one hell of a hacker. Tom had to give props to whoever did this. In the next second the lights turned off and the violent quaking began.

Kevin had seen his life flash before his eyes just a few seconds ago. He had unknowingly hurt Gina by clutching her so tight so as to protect her from the slabs of concrete that would have crushed them had Viperdramon not melted through them with his Acid Bomb attack. Kevin found himself alternating between apologizing to Gina for unintentionally hurting her and thanking the snake dragon for saving his life like that.

"It's alright" Gina said her voice shaking. No one could blame her. A few minutes ago, her brother was escorting her back to her house since it was getting late. The next thing she knew the streets of London had become a danger zone when the earthquake struck. Then there was the fact that she nearly would have died. It was much to process for her mind.

"What the hell? London's never had an earthquake like this in years" Kevin tried to think but fear was making his heart beat faster and beating of his heart drowned his thinking.

"Destiny" Viperdramon gave a hiss.

Gina looked at him confused but Kevin knew what he meant. He thought back to the day he first met Viperdramon. Now, it seemed like it was a long lost memory. Time flies fast.

"This is what we had agreed to do" the dragon continued.

The ground shook once more and a roar resounded through the night sky. Kevin didn't look back for fear of his life.

"No backing down now" Viperdramon stared into Kevin's eyes.

Against the shaking of his legs, against the resonance of fear, against the dread clogging his heart, Kevin stood up and took out the key to his destiny from his left pant pocket.

The digivice began to light up and the hologram of a monster appeared. A voice accompanied it, "Deltamon, Champion level, Virus Attribute. Special attack: Triple Force".

"What the hell is that?" When the power came back on, the image that appeared on the screens of all the computers had made them wish it didn't come back.

Ada cupped her hands on her mouth. Whether it was her just reining in her shock or offering a silent prayer, no one could say.

"This has to be a damn joke" Tom still held on to his sinking line of thinking even though the facts and expressions said otherwise.

They all saw the image of a blue bipedal dinosaur like creature with two tails and covered in blue fur and a white nose and underbelly.

Both of its arms' consisted of one reptilian head each, one composed of a dinosaur skull and the other a mechanized dragon head. It was a walking nightmare and yet no one was asleep.

"Acid Bomb!" Viperdramon's belly swelled up as he regurgitated a barrage of slime bombs that exploded on contact with Deltamon's body. A direct attack would have no effect on a Digimon like Deltamon. Viperdramon's best attempt was to use the acidic properties of his attack to inflict poison on his enemy and slowly kill it. Until that his speed and small stature would have to carry him throughout the battle.

Deltamon tried to swipe at the small attacker with its skull head. Viperdramon managed to leap over it and the swipe smashed through some concrete buildings. Before the confrontation had taken place Viperdramon had told the two siblings to get as far away as possible from the battle zone. The last thing he would need to do was worry over them and get hit by an attack he could have dodged otherwise.

The snake dragon continued its long range barrage. After the next attack he could see some effects taking place. The enemy dragon grunted which showed the poisoning slowly working its way.

Deltamon quickly changed its attack plan and began to stomp on the smaller dragon. It tried to get rid of Viperdramon using its left foot but the snake dragon dashed away. As the foot crushed through the pavement Viperdramon quickly turned around mid run and fired another barrage.

It was then that Viperdramon realized that he had underestimated his opponent.

Deltamon blocked the barrage using his mechanical arm. The metal was resistant to the acid attack. With this Deltamon had found a way to completely stop the snake dragon's offense.

Still recovering from the shock of his plan falling apart, Viperdramon quickly took the full brunt of Deltamon's strike which caused the smaller dragon to go flying across the city street until he crashed into a structure that could stop his momentum.

"Viperdramon!" Gina's scream woke Kevin from his daze. "He's gonna get killed" Gina was on the verge of running off to tend to the injured creature but her brother stopped him. "Stay here and don't you dare do anything stupid" Kevin spoke and then ran off. At that moment Gina wanted to shout out that Kevin was doing the same thing he told her not to do but she didn't. She only offered a silent prayer.

"Viperdramon!" Kevin screamed at the top of his lungs. When he had reached the site strewn with rubble, he started removing digging through it in search of his partner.

"Viperdramon!" Kevin kept on screaming hoping an answer would come but none came.

"Damn it," Kevin became frustrated as he kept removing the rubble. "Damn it, Viperdramon, we need you". Truth be told Kevin wasn't

searching so frantically because Viperdramon was the only one who could save them. He didn't want the dragon to disappear. He enjoyed his company and the change he had brought to his life and didn't want it to suddenly disappear. To him Viperdramon was a friend. Someone he could trust anything with. Even his life.

It was then at that moment that the digivice lit up. "What now?" Kevin grunted as he tried to hold back tears.

A circular screen was projected out from it and the several words popped up

Primary Digital Matrix Set

Accessing Evolutionary Code

Designation: Saladramon

Code: ADLT1378

Digital Evolution Processâ€¦ INITIATE

The light from the digivice resonated with the light coming out of the rubble. The debris soon shuffled and were tossed aside as a large shape started to grow out from under all the broken concrete.

Said shape resembled a four legged slender dragon with a long neck adorned with spikes. Its back legs had two large spikes mounted on them and its tail resembled that belonging to a snake. Its colour scheme was similar to that of Viperdramon as well as sharing his eye colour.

"Woah" Kevin was stunned by this sudden transformation that occurred. He didn't know what triggered it but he knew one thing. This would allow Viperdramon to turn the tables on Deltamon.

The transformed dragon, known as Saladramon, proceeded to rear his head as he felt the heat energy build up near his long neck.

"Venomâ€¦." Smoke started blowing out from his nose as he began to unleash his attack. "â€¦..Meltdown!" With a quick snap of his neck he exhaled a large blast of green and purple flame.

Deltamon had barely turned and then was hit. At that moment one could not say with a certainty what really took place. Either the force of the blast was powerful enough to sever Deltamon's skull arm from his shoulder or the attack had incinerated the arm until there was nothing left. One thing was for certain, Deltamon was now lacking an arm as it fell to the ground after losing balance.

Like a predator who had his prey trapped, Saladramon leapt towards the fallen blue dinosaur and proceed to attack him with his claws. Deltamon did what it could to defend itself in its vulnerable position with its only arm. Saladramon then proceeded to wrap its long serpentine tail around Deltamon's neck which slowed down the dinosaur's defense. Saladramon then clawed at the Deltamon's eyes. One of his claws came down and the fallen dragon roared out in pain as it was now missing an eye and some skin.

As a response to that pain Deltamon lashed out using its mechanical arm. Due to the large increase in size Saladramon had sacrificed

mobility and dexterity and had no choice but to get hit by the flailing arm. The strike had sent the lizard Digimon crashing into some buildings. Saladramon quickly got up and proceeded to lash out in retaliation with his tail. Using its mechanical arm, Deltamon caught the tail mid attack and tossed its opponent into the ground.

"Triple Force" Deltamon growled as the mechanical arm shot 3 blasts at the now down Saladramon. The shots connected on to Saladramon's body as an explosion took place. Kevin looked at the smoking tower that now enveloped Saladramon.

The retaliation was sudden as a purple blast was fired from under the veil of the smoke. Colliding with Deltamon's chest the victim let out a cry of anguish as it recoiled back from the burning sensation that spread across the area of injury. Saladramon leapt out from its temporary camouflage as he dug his set of jagged dagger like teeth into Deltamon's shoulder. The blue dinosaur dragon couldn't seem to discern which was more painful, the burning across its chest or the teeth digging into its body. It flailed madly like a fish out of water, its two tails crashing through buildings. Having latched onto Deltamon using his fangs, Saladramon started clawing at it.

Deltamon managed to clear its mind for a few seconds from the pain numbing its battle senses. The mechanical arm took aim- not much of a trouble at this close range- and all three shots bombarded Saladramon as the force caused him to fly and crash into another building.

"Viperdramon!" Gina shouted as she saw the retaliation take place. Kevin grimaced as he prepared for the worst.

A resounding roar took place as Saladramon's head jutted out from the cloud of dust. At that moment the fierce salamander Digimon had tilted its head to glance at his human partner. Kevin could have been mistaken but he saw all that was needed to be seen in those emerald green eyes. Saladramon too seemed to understand as it now pointed those eyes at his prey.

"You can do it" the Chosen Child let his words drift into the air. At that instant, the earth itself shook to the sudden burst in speed that Saladramon exhibited in his charge as he now had his prey cornered.

Deltamon reared its only good arm for an attack but suddenly was met with something unexpected. A tail wrapped around the mechanical head like a whip restraining a fierce animal. With its only source of defense barring its tails temporarily disabled, it was an easy feat to get into close range with the dinosaur. In a seemingly impossible bout, Saladramon stood up on its two hind legs as he lunged forward.

Catching both jaws with one claw each, the demonic dragon started to heave as he pulled tightly separating the jaws until he could see straight into the dinosaur's body. It was at that moment that instinct became fear and Deltamon had found itself in a position that all predators fear- that of a prey on its last legs.

In return Saladramon opened its mouth wide. The predator turned prey saw a faint light and a spark and then it felt its insides being

consumed by a stream of purple malevolent fire as the killer let loose its vicious attack. Deltamon could do nothing as the flames started burning it inside out. It was a few agonizing moments before Saladramon saw the dinosaur's body starting to melt from the inside out. Loosening his grip on the mechanical arm Saladramon let Deltamon go as the dinosaur took a few steps before the hellfire consumed him and turned him into ash.

"He did it" Gina looked at the victor as he let loose a victory roar and slowly disappeared in a crumbling light. She barely caught a glance of Kevin dashing towards the location which housed Saladramon before he disappeared.

"Viperdramon!"

Kevin didn't know what just happened other than Viperdramon winning. He ran, panting hard.

He saw Viperdramon waiting for him.

"Go home. The other humans will be here and will ask you two questions" Viperdramon growled.

"What about you?" Kevin tried to catch his breath from his mad dash.

"Don't worry. I'll meet you two later. Hurry. I'll distract the humans if needed" Viperdramon hissed to make his point.

No words were later exchanged as the two siblings disappeared into the night scenery with the faint sound of sirens blaring against the backdrop.

"What in seven hells was that?" a bushy haired scientist stood up demanding an answer from Lysandre.

"Monsters" Lysandre answered as cool as possible in a situation like that. "Maybe a little too cool" Tom thought.

"Are you messing with me?!" another irate worker chimed in.

"No" Lysandre replied. "Everyone" he caught everyone's attention, "we will try to cover this incident up. Until we have conclusive information, nothing shall leave these doors".

"Was this what I signed up for?" Tom thought to himself as he reviewed the recent turn of events.

In a badly lit room a person sat working on a laptop. The screen displayed images of the battle that took place.

"So it has begun" the shadow muttered. "Guess all the Chosen Children need to get together."

3. Under The Guise Of Serenity

Chapter 3: Under the guise of serenity

"...estimates suggest the damage is worth a few billions in pounds"

the TV in the living room was blaring loudly prompting Kevin to decrease the volume. Kevin reclined upon the living room sofa. Due to the earthquake that hit yesterday school was off for a few days.

"Seismologists are baffled by this sudden quake as they struggle to locate the epicenter" the screen showed brief flashes of the condition London was in after the quake. One image showed slabs of broken building lying across the ground, another showed wrecked cars and paramedics working alongside firefighters in order to save people from their sanctuary turned prisons. Rubble had never been as terrifying as it was last night. He thought of how he and Gina could have been buried alive in that similar rubble provided their bones weren't crushed. He thought of the rubble under which Viperdramon was trapped under. He thought of the rubble from which Saladramon rose and brought death upon Deltamon.

Kevin didn't think much of the earthquake after what he had seen unfold last night. It was also for that reason that he felt a strong sense of uneasiness within his chest.

Primary Digital Matrix Set

Designation: Saladramon

Code: ADLT1378

Digital Evolution Processâ€¦| INITIATE

He recalled those words that flashed up as an answer to his wish. It was those words, spoken like a magician's command that caused Viperdramon to undergo the transformation into the vicious Saladramon. Although Saladramon had came out the victor, Kevin thought of the cost of that victory.

The image of buildings crumbling remained carved into his mind. He could recall perfectly how the two Digimon tore through the manmade structures like a hot knife through butter. He could replay the deafening sound of crumbling architecture that permeated the night air during their battle. He clung onto hope that the inhabitants of those buildings which fell had followed earthquake precautions and evacuated their homes and went somewhere safe- anything that allowed them to be spared from such an unlikely demise.

Primary Digital Matrix Set

Designation: Saladramon

Code: ADLT1378

Digital Evolution Processâ€¦| INITIATE

The mechanical voice echoed inside his skull cavity. His wish and his cries had been answered. Did he bring about this destruction? Did a selfish wish like this cause lives to be lost to a fight that no one had anything to do with?

The TV still showed images of the after effects of the quake. The shot showed the remains of a tall building. Kevin's mind instantly thought back to the fight that unfolded last night. Was this building

brought down by Saladramon? Were people injured or killed because of him?

"Don't torture yourself" Gina's hand on her brother's shoulder broke his thinking. Gina had woke him up from such situations many times last night.

"I'm not" Kevin lied.

"It's not your fault" Gina reassured him in between taking bites off her toast. "If Viperdramon hadn't done what he did, this would look a lot worse than now."

She had a point. Though there were 6 other Digimon besides Viperdramon, he was the only one on the scene at that time. Had his initial plan of wearing Deltamon out using his poison attacks still succeeded, the long drawn out fight would have easily caused more destruction to the city with Deltamon flailing its massive body in order to get a hit on Viperdramon.

"Stillâ€¦" Kevin insisted on himself being guilty. "Things could have been different".

"Half of London would have been testament to the strength of this copy cat King Ghidorah" the reply was blunt. Blunt but effective nonetheless. Gina possessed a deep insight which Kevin was thankful for now more than ever.

"Did anyone tell you that a tiger has more tact than you?" Kevin smiled having somewhat gotten rid of the guilt.

"Oh my" Gina feigned surprise, "you'd be the first one".

"Ya know" Kevin thought back to the day they had first met Viperdramon- in particular to the moment when their partnership had been settled. "I think it should have been you instead of me".

Gina somewhat had an idea of what Kevin was implying by that but she still wanted to be sure.

"I think you should have been Viperdramon's partner. Not me." Kevin felt a bit sad about the idea.

"No, I shouldn't have" Gina's answer came swift which momentarily confused Kevin. "Strength of mind and strength of heart are not always the same. What you did that night, rushing to Viperdramon's aid- that came from your heart. I don't know how the digivice works but based on what I saw yesterday it works based on your emotions. You're heart shined through that moment."

Kevin thought for awhile. At that moment last night he could only think of how it would have felt to lose his Digimon. He had always tried his level best to keep up his loner façade but at that moment when faced with the possibility of loss he had forgotten all about it.

"Thinking you're guilty and knowing you're guilty are two different things" Gina concluded. "I don't think I could have done what you did yesterday."

Kevin laughed. He knew Gina was not trying to cheer him up. No she hardly does that. She just speaks her mind- something he was grateful for. "How are we related again?" He joked.

"I ask myself that question all the time" Gina replied sporting a smirk.

The two broke into laughter at that.

"C'mon, hurry up. Breakfast's almost ready" the girl beckoned her brother to join her in the dinner table. Kevin followed with a declaration of "I'm hungry".

As they proceeded to have their breakfast Gina inquired about the whereabouts of Viperdramon.

"I wouldn't worry" Kevin replied. "He's tough and smart".

"Tough like you and smart like me, huh?" Gina thought.

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Seeing the destruction being reported by a newscaster on a TV screen and seeing it up close were two entirely different things as Eric found out. He had decided to take a walk around the city just to see how bad it was. He had seen such scenes in TV but when up close he came to understand how powerful and unpredictable a disaster could truly be. Humans still had a long way to go in this regard.

He saw some paramedics carry some of the injured away on stretchers. He didn't feel anything regarding that. While some people may think of him as heartless, he wasn't the type to cry upon seeing things like these unfold. He hardly knew any of them. Why would he cry for them? It was natural. It was reality. Not everyone would remain unscathed after something like this. If he cried for every unknown death he would be no better off than widows refusing to both live her life or re marry.

"No one really saw this coming. No wonder it did this much." It was true; London hardly experienced earthquakes of this magnitude. Almost all the quakes that do hit London are barely noticed. This had led, he thought, to a city built on the safety of ignorance. This had led to what he saw before him. Ignorance promises safety and yet offers nothing worthy in return when the time comes. Though what was done was done. Everyone should have now focus on rebuilding and repairing the city and rescue anyone who could be rescued.

He adjusted his sky blue shirt- a habit of his. He sported khaki pants and didn't have his spectacles on which forced him to squint his eyes at times to get a proper view. Staring at a laptop screen in a poorly lit room was a fast way to damage your eyesight. "I'm almost a liability without my glasses" the boy thought.

"Can you tell who I am without your glasses?" Eric turned slowly. He might have been half-blind but that didn't mean he couldn't hear.

"Jules Verde, beautiful girl of age 17 who is head over heels for a certain boy with blonde-"

"Forget I asked" the brunette came to regret even asking that question. It was hard to get a scare on Eric. Stoic was the perfect word to describe him, after all. He was hardly fazed and was smart enough to turn any situation around into his favour.

"I hope you are satisfied, Miss Verde" Eric replied mockingly.

"How could I not be Mr. Sassy Pants" Julia replied in an equally if not more mocking tone. She was sporting a yellow sundress that left her shoulders bare and blue jeans.

"Taking a walk around, I suppose?" At the question Julia grew silent. Like Eric, the purpose of the walk was to see the after effects first hand.

"It's horrible" Julia finally found something to say.

"It's reality" Eric thought but didn't say anything. He didn't want to anger her.

"This destruction, it feels so unreal" the girl felt torn up inside. Was it because she was uninjured and alive while others would have killed to be in her place?

"It's every bit as real as you and me" the boy thought. He kept on looking at the girl. Eric knew that Julia was strong. She would lament but she would always find a way to get over it.

"There's no use crying about it, is there Eric?" Julia looked into Eric's eyes. "It won't save anyone. Tears never can."

_Tears never can_â€|. Those were haunting words. Eric knew the truth behind it very well. So did Julia. They had experienced it firsthand after all. It was what connected both of them.

"I know I might sound like an ass, but how about we walk together. Maybe we can get something to eat later on?" Eric thought it would have been better to resume the purpose of this outing rather than lose himself in bitter memories.

It was a bit selfish but Julia still wanted to go with it. "Okay" she smiled, "let's go".

"Scratch that. I should have walked alone" Eric contemplated his decision.

Walking together with a girl and both of them not even looking at each other-forget saying anything- was a bit of a weird experience. "At least Hiran aint here" that was the last person he wanted to see him in this situation. If he did, Eric thought of the worst case scenario, Hiran would come up with some nicknames that would make school life unbearable.

It wasn't because Julia was a girl. Like Noel, Eric wasn't one for chit chat. He didn't know how to lengthen a conversation. While Noel and him did have lengthy discussions from time to time, it was different. It was usually based around a single topic and not like "Oh hi, how are you? Did you see the earthquake yesterday? Of course you did. I had toast for breakfast". That kind of stuff was

annoying.

At the end they decided to take a break at a nearby park.

"Everything cool at home?" Eric had enough of this silence.

"Huh? Oh yeah, still the same" Julia decided to sit near the fountain, "mom still acts like a ghost, these days. Dad decided to hire someone to help do the household chores when I'm at school."

Eric averted his gaze.

"Wish she would go back to being herself" Julia muttered, "what about you?"

"Are we only connected by the pain of loss?" Eric thought solemnly. "The usual" and Julia nodded at the answer.

"So is Hiran's game still on?" the boy changed the subject.

"Dunno" came the confused reply, "forgot to ask him".

"I was personally looking forward to see Hiran get his cocky self handed to him. I heard Kevin Louis was in the opposing team. He's a mad striker".

"Is that so?" Eric knew Julia was feigning interest.

"Is Noel going?" Eric asked a question he very well knew the answer to.

"Doubt it" Julia was staring at the cloudless sky. It seemed that the quake had driven out the clouds. "Depressed individuals have an aversion to activity" she replied still staring at the sky.

"It's been a year and a half"

"An agonizing year and a half for him" Julia noted. "His father meant the world to him after all. When he passed away, all Noel and his mom got was a letter addressed by the military".

"Stillâ€¦".

"It's not easy. We both should know better".

_It won't save anyone. Tears never can_â€¦|. The words rang in his head. He remembered the tears he shed on the hospital bed where his mother died. How useless they were. The pulse was dropping as fast as the tears and then she was gone.

"It's okay. I'll be fine. This sickness is nothing" she said. What a load of crap that was. She could have just told her son the truth. She could have just told him that she would die. Then he wouldn't had gotten his hopes up and made her passing all the more painful and the tears even more useless. He shouldn't have had ignored the signs-the facts. Her increasingly pale complexion, the coughs getting louder; they were all telling him the truth. Yet he chose to remain ignorance and ignorance brought nothing in return. It was lung cancer after

all.

It was after that did Eric swear that he would never cry again. He did not want to be so useless, so weak and vulnerable. He had no use for them. There were no such things as miracles.

"I think that's what connects us" Julia thought back to their childhood. Eric nodded. It was true. "We understand each other a lot more than others could. I guess we are welded to an extent" a giggle followed the exchange. "We know each other a lot better because of this and that's what makes us such good friends in the end".

Hundreds of faceless people you call "friends" or a few people who accept you for who you are. The choice was obvious to both of them.

"Maybe, we should get a bite to eat" the girl suggested.

"There's a good caf   I know nearby" Eric helped Julia up and they made their way.

The caf   had few people in it. Eric helped Julia to a seat and she began to skim through the menu. While she was engaged in sorting through the names of several delicacies Eric took out his phone to check the time. A sudden cocking of his eyebrow had alerted the girl that something was wrong.

"Problem?" Julia inquired.

"Yeah" Eric grunted, "My phone's messed up". He hated it when any electronic device didn't work like he wanted it to. "I mean it's a bit old, but even then this is unexpected". The clock was reading 0 hours and 0 minutes and the screen started to flash and fade.

"A virus?" Julia suggested to which Eric disagreed. "Doubt it. I'm kinda careful about things like that so I don't think that's the case."

Eric was a bit alerted when the other customers started reporting the same problem. He dismissed and decided to go through the menu too.

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From a dark alley, Viperdramon, who covered himself with a ragged brown cloth, observed the daily activities of humans. He thought back to last night as to how he had changed forms. For him it wasn't just a temporary increase in power. It was proof that Kevin was indeed a right choice. It was proof that they understood each other better now.

He glanced at the destruction. Last night when he was stuck under the rubble he really wasn't bothered as much. If he had met his end, then he would have simply not woken up. It was Kevin's cries of anguish that anchored him and brought him back to the shore of consciousness and to the plane of victory. He recalled his feelings as Saladramon. He thought of how narrow minded he was in that form. He attacked with reckless abandon and was toying with his prey instead of finishing him off. He could have deleted Deltamon in the first attack and yet

only decided to blast his arm off. It was only when he saw Kevin did he regain control over his primal instincts.

He was not bothered by the mess of the city. He was bothered by his lack of control. He could easily top Deltamon in terms of destructive power. He could easily raze this city to the ground.

Viperdramon growled softly. There it was again- his lack of control. His viral nature took over his senses at that moment like it did during that fight. Digimon had attributes like Data, Vaccine and Virus. He was off the Virus attribute. Like it suggested he was made to destroy. He took pride in his form that was designed not to just fight but to kill. Yet he was not foolish enough to lose himself in his pride. When his viral instinct had kicked in during his battle he did not feel any pain. It was only today when he had control of himself did he feel the brunt of all those blows. He thought of how dangerous it would have been to lose control in a future fight with his teammates. Although his instincts render him immune to pain, it also clouded his judgement. He couldn't distinguish foe or friend.

Amongst the other 6 the only Virus attribute Digimon was Astralmon who was not really the type to share your troubles with. Then again, this fight was his to win. He had to quell his inner turmoil.

He looked at the two people sitting at a table at a nearby café. The two looked like they were enjoying themselves. Viperdramon shifted his eyes up. He saw the black ominous shade looming at the top of a building. The sun had made it hard to identify which Digimon it was. The virus dragon readied himself just in case the shadow decided to do anything unfavourable.

"I really wouldn't recommend doing that" Viperdramon turned around as fast as he could, claws ready to tear into the enemy that decided to mess with him.

"Woah there" Viperdramon had calmed down upon identifying the attacker. Said being had a human like body structure and wore a grey horned helmet. Its body looked like it was made out of some strange blue liquid and the wires were visible inside its body with some jutting out from its helmet.

"Oh it's you, Astralmon" Viperdramon returned to his normal stance.

"Yes, it is. Nice to see you" the Digimon's mouth didn't move when it talked. "Like I was saying, it's not a good idea to go after Wendigomon. No one wants to see Saladrakon destroy even more of the city and in broad daylight at that."

"So what do you suggest?" Viperdramon tried to hide his resentment at that comment.

"Nothing. For now. We should only act when they do. For now there's a more active Digimon lurking around. I'll take care of that."

"What about your partner?"

"He's capable" Astralmon replied. "We all will meet soon enough. The end is slowly approaching. We both can feel it".

Viperdramon knew what he was talking about and so left. Astralmon did the same thing.

-xxxx-

"Thanks for the food" Julia was walking with Eric until the path diverged.

"No prob, always glad" Eric bid the girl farewell as he walked back home.

He opened the door to his house with a spare key. He wanted to shout that he was home but who would be there to receive him. He felt sad for a brief moment before discarding it as a dumb thought. No one was here anyways.

He rushed to his room and turned on his laptop.

"All right, Astralmon" Eric adjusted his glasses, "time to get to work".

4. Gigabyte

Chapter 4: Gigabyte

"Target spotted" Astralmon was gliding through a gigantic sphere like area composed of digital circuitry. The place was better referred to as the "Internet". Digimons could move freely throughout the net and as a result saw it much differently than a normal human would. To them it was a constantly changing dimension that existed outside both the digital and human world. It was better described as a series of interconnected dimensions rather than one whole one.

While all Digimon could move throughout the net, the speed at which one could do it differed. Most of the times it was the case of where bigger and more powerful Digimon had a harder time traversing due to their complex structure and data size which might as well cause some slight disturbances to manifest throughout the real world net. Virus Digimon did it much better due to their unique builds. This had led the Virus Digimon to assume another Virus was causing mayhem around the net. Considering the rate at which the chaos was spreading there was only one possible culprit.

The target was a tall albeit amorphous purple Digimon. It had two long scrawny hands and its body was but a series of wires jutting out. It had a sphere shaped head with two wire like appendages for ears. It was devouring some of the walls of the sphere. No doubt it was a feast for data.

"Boost Spark" a small blue and purple ball of lightning was fired from Astralmon's hands. Although it was drifting around slowly it quickly turned into a streak of light and in an instant collided with its target leaving a blackened patch.

Astralmon quickly stopped gliding and its arm began to extend like a rubber band as it rammed something head on pinning it into the ground.

Despite being in a tight situation the rampaging Digimon had a crazy maniacal grin on its face.

"Woah" Eric observed the battle from his laptop, "this guy makes The Joker look tame".

The Digimon seemed to find the remark funny and started laughing out loud but Astralmon knew better. The arm contracted back as the attacker soon evaded the bullets of light that were fired from the enemy.

"Hmm, Keramon, Rookie level, special attack: Crazy Giggle. Self explanatory" Eric commented as he started fiddling with his Digivice which was dark blue and silver.

Keramon started spewing out bullets of light at a rate akin to sub machine gun. Accuracy was absent in each shot which made evading them child's play. Astralmon zipped across the battlefield. It was his home ground after all, which boosted his mobility.

Astralmon was moving like lightning as the blasts weren't even remotely close. When the rate of fire had slowed down Astralmon stopped mid way and extended both of his hands as they zoomed in on its target. The left hand crashed into the ground but was a few seconds late as Keramon flew upwards. From the smoke a ball of lightning was fired at the rampant Digimon which dodged it easily.

The right arm crept up behind Keramon, charging up for another lightning blast. The cackling of electricity had alerted Keramon to the surprise attack leading it to retaliate by firing a blast of light that collided just as Astralmon unleashed a ball of lightning.

The resultant explosion had led to a strong haze that littered the battlefield. Despite the obstruction of the view, Astralmon could still detect where Keramon was. It was one of his abilities. Having detected where the cackling menace was he charged ahead, claws bursting with electricity.

It was a just a flash and after that instant Keramon found one of its arms severed. He saw a glimpse of the one who did it and foolishly tried to block the next attack which had led to another stump where a hand was.

"Sever its head" Eric barked out a command-a command to kill.

"Spiral Claw" Astralmon called out his attack as the deadly, cackling claw drew close to Keramon's neck. Keramon ducked which led to one of its ears being cut.

The crazy laugh came and along with it a bombardment of close range blasts that connected with Astralmon.

"It's gonna flee, Astralmon" Eric observed the purple injured monster making a dash but it was too late. A tunnel opened up and Keramon was gone in the next instant.

Astralmon had recovered his senses and proceeded to give chase.

"I wanted to beat that thing before he changed into Kurisarimon, but I doubt we can now" Eric sighed, "its eating data like crazy. This guy'll regenerate in no time".

"I need to digivolve" Astralmon realized the situation. He should have severed Keramon's head first before blasting his body to bits.

"I'm hacking into the digivice" Eric was typing furiously, "hang in there. I'll unlock your champion form soon enough". He was almost on the verge of unlocking the secrets to how Digivolution worked. From what he had gathered he found out that the data for the Champion form of all the Digimons were stored inside the Digivice's memory and was protected by a lock. The Digivolution function was only accessible if a link was established between human and Digimon. Under normal conditions, the lock would be broken based on the biometrics of both human and Digimon. If both components were under high tension and were pushed to their limits the lock would undo itself and data from the Digivice would transfer into the Digimon reconfiguring it into its new form which was why Digivolution was only temporary as it was more of a power up than evolution in the true sense of the word. He went through the data codes as fast as he could so that he could hack into the system and unlock the Digivolution data on his own instead of waiting for a miracle to happen.

"I'll need it" the Virus Digimon thought to himself as he was slowly approaching his target.

Keramon had fully healed himself from absorbing all the data around him but for some reason was moving slowly.

"Maybe the excess data is slowing him down" Astralmon suggested.

"Or that digital Joker wannabe wants to fight you" Eric ran over the possibilities.

Astralmon decided to take up his challenge and charged in with his Spiral Claw attack.

"Definitely the latter" Eric noted as Keramon turned around and blocked the attack with its long arm. Instead of the arm being cut in half, it was holding in there like a shield.

Eric realized what the maniacal Digimon did. It had absorbed all the data around it and compressed it increasing its density until its body had gotten much stronger. "Crafty, aren't ya?" the boy grunted.

Astralmon was alternating between his claw strikes but Keramon's strategy had rendered his offense void.

"It'll be impossible to beat him like this" Astralmon had another of his attacks blocked. "We have to take this fight to the human world".

"Got it" Eric picked up his Digivice, "I'll be on my way, then".

He pressed a few buttons on his Digivice and a mechanical voice popped in. "Initiating Bio Emergence". Eric soon left to rendezvous

with Astralmon in the human world.

Astralmon saw the portal pop up behind Keramon. Although the light from the portal was blinding, it paled in comparison to the light that started to swirl around Keramon. A light he very well knew didn't mean good.

The portal had led them to an empty street. Unfortunately, momentum was conserved during their jump causing them to crash into a nearby building just as they exited from a TV screen aligned in a shop.

Astralmon quickly recovered as he distanced himself. The fight didn't just change by virtue of the battlefield. Where Keramon was supposed to be was now a big purple cocoon like Digimon with bladed cables flowing out from its body.

"I believe the human term would be 'a pain in the neck'" Astralmon said to no one in particular.

-xxxx-

"I'm home" Julia's cheerful announcement was met with silence. Her mom was sitting on the living room sofa and staring into the television screen. Julia knew very well that she wasn't watching anything and just preferred to let whatever was playing on the TV to drown out the surrounding noise.

"I'll get the food ready in a jiffy." No response.

The girl made her way to her room.

"Oh, welcome back, Julia" the person-or Digimon- that welcomed her looked like an amalgamation of various animals. It had the head and body of a rabbit with two big feathery ears. It possessed two long snow white fox tails that it had wrapped around its neck like a scarf.

"Hiya, Virtueemon" Julia perked up at seeing the creature and gave it a hug. Virtueemon returned the affection by nuzzling her cheek.

"Did you enjoy you're walk?" Virtueemon enquired to which Julia nodded.

"I met up with Eric and we talked aboutâ€¦." What did they talk about? She recalled the silent walk through the town. Neither Eric nor she made any attempts at conversation then and when they did talk it was a solemn talk at best. She didn't mind. Eric like Noel wasn't the talkative type but she still knew that wouldn't change the fact that they were friends.

"We just talked" Julia answered to which Virtueemon didn't make any further enquiries.

Julia lost a bit of her enthusiasm. She did think that the three of them were great friends but did they think of her the same way?

_Jules Verde, beautiful girl of age 17 who is head over heels for a certain boy with blonde-__

It was in jest. It was true.

She did love Noel. There was something about those azure eyes and that wane smile of his that made all her worries go away.

And that was her tragedy. She was aware of her feelings but would Noel ever reciprocate those? She could look at him all day and yet he would never even bat an eyelid. She could talk about the world to him but would he listen? She could tell him her feelings but he wouldn't.

"Julia?" Virtueemon spoke softly.

"Don't worry" she sat upon her bed. Virtueemon crept closer to her and sat on her lap.

"You can always talk to me" the friendly Digimon smiled.

Julia remained silent.

"I know you're suffering" Virtueemon began, "you haven't been the same since Peter passed away".

Peter was Julia's elder brother. It had been a year since he passed away and yet the memories were still fresh. They had both welcomed Virtueemon into the household and played with her. Julia could still remember how they pulled Virtueemon's cheeks and eat cupcakes together. She would love the drawings her brother would draw and earn praise for. He had once drawn a portrait depicting the three of them. She knew that people had to die. Her only complaint was why it had to be so sudden. She thought the ways it could have been avoided. Peter could have taken a different route or the car should have avoided hitting him. It was not enough to die, but to die at a proper time.

"He's gone" Julia couldn't accept the loss so easily. She had cried so much near his hospital bed and yet it was for naught. Tears were useless after all. In his final moments, he used his remaining strength to wipe away her tears. After that his hand dropped, limp and the E.C.G flat lined.

It was hard for her. On one side she loved a boy who would never reciprocate the feelings and on the other side she was dealing with the sudden death of her brother. Yet she had to be strong. "Everything will be all right." Naïve words. Everyone who says those words hardly ever think how all the problems will be solved. It was like going to a place without knowing the address. It was easy to be strong when one is ignorant of one's surroundings. Knowing what lay ahead made strengthening her heart all the more difficult.

"I'm tired of being strong" Julia let her head rest on Virtueemon's body. "It's really tough and annoying."

The Digimon sat still listening to her words. "I'm sorry you have to listen to all my crap."

"It's no problem for me" the beast Digimon replied. "Don't forget that you have me Julia. If necessary, I'll take all your grief upon myself. I'll endure it for you. As long as it makes you happy".

The girl smiled. Her partner deserved it after all. "I'll have to make food for Dad when he comes home". Julia was about to leave when an idea popped up. "Hey, maybe Dad and I could take Mom out for dinner one day."

"That's a great idea" Virtueemon consented, "it should cheer her up".

-xxxx-

The room was pitch black except for the ghostly glow of the laptop screen. A boy was working fervently on his laptop. While tapping away, the screen suddenly froze.

"The heck?" Annoyance was present in his voice. His laptop was state of the art. It shouldn't have frozen up like this. The screen started to flash and turned blue. Text written in a language he had never seen before started appearing and along with it a download bar showing the progress at 15%.

Though it was only for a moment.

The bar was filling up rapidly until it reached a 100% denoted by a 1 and an infinity sign. The screen reverted to its previous form.

"A comfortable home, if I do say so myself" the words were being typed by themselves on the screen.

The cursor was blinking, awaiting input.

The child was indeed confused but under that confusion was a primal instinct. Said instinct was possessed by all human beings. He was curious.

"Who are you?" the boy typed on the screen and finalized it by pressing the Enter key.

The words began to appear on the screen again, "a Digital Monster or Digimon".

"I don't understand" the boy typed back.

"I am in need of assistance but only if you are willing to agree. I cannot divulge too much information. Tell me do you believe in 'fate'?"

"No" came the reply which seemed to have taken the invader by surprise since no reply came for awhile.

"Interesting" The text finally appeared, "are you willing to cooperate with me?"

"Is it to do with your kind?"

"Yes, but it concerns your kind too. If you do not want to join, I will undo all these changes I made and leave" ..

"I'll join you; I have nothing left to lose"

"Wonderful, please extend your hand towards the screen."

The boy did as he was told. In return a blue crystalline hand came out of the screen and interweaved its fingers with the boy. The boy felt a device clasped between their hands.

"Registering Chosen Child" a mechanical voice called out.

"I'm Astralmon" a voice sounded from the screen.

"Link established."

"I'm Eric" the boy replied.

Eric couldn't say why that particular memory came to him at this particular moment. Astralmon had entered his life just after his mother left. It was because of him that he was standing here.

"Now's not the time to be lying down on the job, Astralmon" Eric made his appearance, panting from his run. He collected himself and held on tightly to his Digivice.

As if he was energized by his partner's reappearance Astralmon took to his battle stance.

"Time to turn the tide" Eric smirked. He had drawn his trump card.

"So I assume you unlocked my next form" Astralmon would have smirked in return had he a mouth.

"Yeah, already started working on unlocking your Ultimate form" the Chosen Child was almost giddy at the prospect.

Kurisarimon seemed to be annoyed as it latched one of its cables onto a car and threw it at the duo.

Primary Digital Matrix Set

Accessing Evolutionary Code

Designation: Cybermon

Code: ADLT0752

Digital Evolution Processâ€¦ INITIATE

As the car was thrown like a giant boulder a flash of light enveloped Astralmon. In the next instant, the projectile was split in half as the two halves of the car grinded to a halt on both sides of Eric and the new form of Astralmon. Said form was a larger and ferocious version of Astralmon which now sported a forked tail and sharper claws. It had more armor around its arms and chest with the helmet taking a more alien like shape. Two arched crystal blades jutted out from his arms, no doubt responsible for slicing through the projectile thrown at him.

At a moment's notice Cybermon quickly lunged at Kurisarimon, ready to cut it apart. Kurisarimon aware of the imminent threat quickly retaliated with its Cable Crusher attack which involved unleashing

all of its cables at once. With a quick spin and the help of its blades, Cybermon deflected the attack without sacrificing too much momentum. At a suitable range, a horizontal slash was thrown across the cocoon like body of the opposing virus Digimon.

"Not so impenetrable now, are ya?" Eric smirked. A deep cut was engraved upon the body of Kurisarimon, a feat Astralmon couldn't achieve but Cybermon could and did within the first few minutes of the fight.

It was hard to say whether the floating cocoon was enraged or not but it quickly retracted its cables and then lashed out once more with a spinning motion managing to cover a large area. Cybermon simply back flipped to avoid the attack but could do nothing to save the buildings that were sliced apart so easily by the attack.

Kurisarimon decided to use another tactic and instead of lashing out everywhere at once, it aimed all of its cables at Cybermon hoping to skewer it and end the fight but Cybermon once again proved to be a tough opponent.

The Digimon put up its bladed arms in a guard and soon all the cables hit him causing sparks to fly off and Cybermon to be pushed back. Digging his claws into the ground and having gotten a strong anchoring, Cybermon quickly broke his guard by making a horizontal cut sending the cables with their momentum flying away to his left and right.

"Wide open" the Chosen Child summarized the purpose of that maneuver. The momentum of the cables had caused them to crash into unintended targets and get stuck. Without any of the cables to defend him, Cybermon lunged once more.

Kurisarimon was an annoying pest. It got the cables out and now latched them onto a car and started reeling it in. Eric barely avoided getting his head smashed by it. Cybermon stopped mid run and then jumped out of the way making sure to kick the car into Kurisarimon.

Before it made an impact Kurisarimon tore the sedan in half with a quick snap of its jet black wires. What Cybermon wasn't aware of was of the cocoon Digimon's counter attack. It quickly unleashed its bladed wires when Cybermon wasn't aware of it. The wires had gotten a hold of Cybermon and dragged it down to the ground.

"You're not the only trap expert" Eric snickered as electricity cackled around Cybermon.

"EM Storm" the Digimon announced in a throaty growl as the wires that trapped it now found themselves conducting some thousand volts of energy as the attack struck Kurisarimon head on. The cables loosened allowing Cybermon to escape.

It was at that moment that Eric's Digivice lit up. "It's gonna evolve into Infermon" he shouted to his partner.

A similar light from before enveloped the floating cocoon though this time Cybermon was prepared.

"Attack it now, while its evolving" Eric barked out his command.

Electricity started cackling once more as a wave of energy was fired at the source of the light. An explosion ensued.

When the smoke had cleared instead of a floating cocoon, there was a white and red spider like Digimon in its place. Electricity also circled its body and it was in pain. Evolution unlike Digivolution was a longer process leaving Infermon wide open for an attack.

"EM Storm's ability to paralyze might not be too effective on such an immobile enemy like Kurisarimon, but its Infermon's worst nightmare."

"DNAâ€|" the liquid crystal skin on Cybermon's arm started to reform into an arched blade.

"Delete it" Eric commanded and Cybermon leapt.

Infermon was still stuck, its body numb, unable to move. All it could do was wait for the executioner's blade to deal the final blow.

"â€|..Slasher" soon the blade skewered Infermon as its eyes twitched. Cybermon pushed the blade deeper until the spider Digimon started to squirm. In one swift movement, the blade was pulled out slicing the Virus Digimon in half and sending some globs of data flying. The remains of the Digimon collapsed and disintegrated into data.

"Well that's done" Eric sighed. "Let's go home then. We still have to get the other Chosen Children together".

-xxxx-

"Looks like the disturbance has stopped" Tom was working late.
"Wonder what was up with that?"

"Was it because of that thing?" Ada suggested to which Tom knew very well what she meant. She was talking about the night when those two dragons fought. A lot of scientists left after that night. Lysandre was strangely okay with it having handled it quite nicely. Truth be told, Tom would have left too but Ada stayed and that was all that he needed.

"Don't know" Tom replied. Despite being the Digital Anomaly Research and Prevention Centre they weren't doing any preventing. Lysandre had chalked it up to the lack of information. At least the media weren't up their throats.

"There are a lot of things we don't understand yet. There's nothing much to be done about that" Tom began, "we should do the things that can be done." He had said that without putting much thought into it. He didn't know what could be done but it seemed to work as Ada calmed down.

"The numbers will decrease day by day" Tom thought as he seemed to be seeing less people every day. He recalled the lines of text that appeared during that fateful night.

"There are more of them" Tom thought to himself. He recalled the second beast that appeared. It looked like it was trying to stop the rampage.

"I wonder if there are some creatures that want to save us?" it was a crazy thought. But it was possible. Anything was possible after what happened that night.

"If so"â€|. The male scientist wasn't sure who he was asking a favour off. "Please save us".

5. Resonance

Chapter 5: Resonance

"Mr. Scarecrow, are you alive?" The darkness was pierced by a shrill voice. The bearer of that voice was a crow which descended from the darkness.

The scarecrow was dressed in a shabby white shirt and torn jeans. His big straw hat kept his ruffled shaggy blonde hair under check.

"If not, you should die" a magpie flew in with a screech.

The scarecrow didn't respond.

"Sever your ties and then spread your wings" a raven landed on the straw hat.

"No one shall miss you" the magpie piped.

"Realize you're purpose. Then you shall truly be alive" the crow quipped.

"At the end of the road lies your destination. Death shall welcome you" the raven screeched.

"Leave me alone" that was all the scarecrow could manage.

"We cannot" the magpie fluttered its wings.

"We are your true friends. We will never leave you" the crow cried out.

"There is nothing truer than death, young scarecrow" the raven started to peck at the scarecrow.

The Magpie and Crow joined in intent on pecking the scarecrow to death.

"Leave me alone" the scarecrow felt the taste of blood on his lips. His face was bleeding as the skin came apart. He began to see red and then black.

"Leave me alone"â€|

Noel slowly opened his eyes. He didn't think much of the nightmare and was used to seeing such strange stuff. It wasn't worth waking up in a cold sweat just because of something like that.

"Good morning, Noel" Bokhramon stepped out from under the bed, "I think it's good."

"Don't know" Noel talked slowly, "I hate mornings". No matter how much he slept, Noel had a hard time facing the mornings. His head was still spinning. "God."

Noel got up and announced that he needed coffee. "You wanna eat something, Bokhramon?"

The goat Digimon nodded and followed the human.

"Morning, mom" Noel yawned.

"I don't think anyone's happier than you at school being closed" Susan Keith was watching TV. The news was showing.

"I guess so" Noel had a hard time processing a reply. Ms Keith chuckled at that. "I'll get your breakfast ready" her azure eyes shone much brighter than those of Noel's and her hair was a much brighter shade of blonde- somewhat golden. On her way to the kitchen she gently scratched Bokhramon's chin.

"The sudden electronic disturbances had ceased yesterday. The cause is still being discerned." Noel was about to change the channel but decided against it. "Strangely, one street was found yesterday to be littered with the broken remains of buildings and cars. Some say that it's connected to the electronic disturbances."

"Another Digimon, perhaps?" Noel suggested to which the goat Digimon nodded.

"I doubt it was Viperdramon who took this one down" Bokhramon thought back to the fight between Saladramon and Deltamon.

Despite it being somewhat far away the two giant draconic Digimon were still visible that night. Noel shuddered whenever he thought back to the destruction the two left in their wake. "So this is what Digimon are capable of?" He thought to himself.

"We have to fight someday too" Bokhramon's voice was barely above a whisper.

"I'd like to avoid that" Noel said with disdain at the prospect of fighting.

"I know you hate fighting, Noel" the goat Digimon crept closer to the human, "but do you think we can go on avoiding things like this?"

The boy remained silent. He didn't have much of a reply for that point. He decided to recline upon the living room sofa.

"Don't know" he finally admitted. "I really don't. I just don't want to fight".

Bokhramon decided not to further pursue the matter.

"Breakfast's ready." Noel made his way to the table and began to

indulge himself in food. Butter toast and eggs. His favourite.

"Here's some for you" Ms Keith gave Bokhramon a plate of toast. Apparently Digimon had weird diets even if they resembled everyday species.

"Noel" the bearer of the name looked towards the one who called it, "do you mind going with me to the shopping mall?"

Ms Keith rarely went outside after Noel's father passed away. She would spend her days at home with her son and had other people do tasks like shopping for her. Due to her storing away all the things that need to be bought till the month's end the shopping list tended to become really big. That's why she says shopping in general when it could include anything from clothes to groceries.

"Fineâ€¦" Noel sighed to which his mom smiled.

-xxxx-

"Oh really, that's cool," Eric was on the phone with Julia.

"Yeah" Julia replied from the other side. "Hiran said it would be great either way."

Hiran had called Julia to tell her that the match would still go on but it was reorganized as a charity event. Eric agreed to the idea thinking it was all good.

"Okay, then. I'll see you on Sunday" Julia hung up.

Eric started to dial another number.

"Pick up", Eric was a bit impatient regarding such things as waiting for someone to receive a call.

"Hello", a husky voice made itself heard.

"Is this Kevin Louis?"

"Yeah, it is" Kevin confirmed his identity from the other side, "Eric?"

"Yeah, it's Eric. I called to ask whether we can meet up. "Got a few things to discuss". Eric heard two voices on the other side chatting away.

"Is it about the Chosen Children thing?" upon the mention of those two words the outside voices disappeared.

"Yeah. I think we should talk. You're coming to the game on Sunday, right? So will Hiran and Julia".

"Two other Chosen Children?" Kevin's feelings were hard to discern.

"Yep. So what about it?"

"Yeah. I'm game. Where do you wanna meet up?"

"Hmmâ€¦. How about Hyde Park, tomorrow?"

"When?"

"6 in the evening."

"Alright then" Kevin hung up.

"After Julia and Hiran, 2 more to go" Eric summarized the situation.
"Astralmon, give me your predictions for Sunday."

The laptop display turned blue as Astralmon was observed. "Judging by estimates, something big."

During that night 5 Digimon had broke into the human world. Deltamon and Keramon had been eliminated. Wedigomon was on the loose. That left 2 more who hid themselves quite nicely.

"What about the Firewall?" Eric asked.

"It's slowly deteriorating. My estimates say we can expect something similar in Sunday." Eric grunted at that reply. They didn't have much time left. If an assortment of Rookies and Champions could enter then it would be only a matter of time before other Digimon started to make their way.

"What a pain" Eric sighed.

-xxxx-

Noel, sporting a full sleeved black t-shirt and blue jeans, walked alongside his mother to the mall.

"Can I wait in the park, until you're done?" Noel asked like a kindergarden kid.

"Okay. Are you sure you don't want to buy anything?"

"Nah, I'm fine mom. Call me when you're done" Noel left.

The nearest park was Hyde Park. Noel sat upon a bench. This particular area wasn't too crowded. "_Good" he thought. He took out his mobile phone and browsed for anything to read. He skimmed through the list and was about to settle on something before his ears caught hold of something.

â€¦_. And I count my sins and I close my eyesâ€¦_

He could hear the song. He could hear the voice trying to harmonize itself with the notes. Noel got up and followed the sound.

â€¦_.And I take it in. I'm bleeding outâ€¦_

He didn't know what made his legs move. He felt something. He saw a girl sitting on the grass, her black hair flowing in the wind.

â€¦_.I'm bleeding out for youâ€¦_

The girl made another stroke at her guitar and with that the music died.

This woke Noel up from his trance and he found himself at arm's length to the girl. The girl then turned, the bangs of her hair hid her left eye but it failed to hide the tears.

"No-Noel" the girl stuttered, "It's nice to see you".

"Yeah" Noel fell under a similar spell, "nice to see you too, Kyrie".

The girl put her guitar down and quickly rubbed the tears away. The girl was Kyrie Gray, a student from Noel's school but in a different classroom. They had known each other through their shared love for music and their creative writings. The two rarely met but still retained a friendly relationship, listening and sharing songs.

"Bleeding out by Imagine Dragons?" Noel asked to which Kyrie nodded.

"One of my favourite bands."

"They're good" Noel sat down beside her. He didn't know why. He just did.

"I know right", she smiled-a goofy smile. _A smile that has hid much sorrow,_ Noel thought.

"So what's up?" Kyrie asked putting her guitar into its case and locked it.

"Nothing much" Noel replied hanging his head down low. "So why were you singing that song?"

The question must have shocked her.

"What do you mean?" She stammered. "I was just practicing".

Noel averted his gaze. _What the heck's wrong with you? You don't even know her that well._

"Hey" Kyrie found no answer. She grabbed Noel by his shoulder.

"Look at me" there was no aggressiveness in her voice. Just an emotionless command.

"Was it my tears?" the grip got tighter.

"No" Noel replied. "It was your voice". _Why am I saying this?_

The girl was evidently confused.

"I gotta get going, alright" Noel got up but quickly felt a strong tug that brought him down.

"Talk. Explain. Clearly" Kyrie was exasperated.

"Tears are hard to discern" Noel began, "They're a reflection of your

sadness not an expression. When you sangâ€¦"

Kyrie strengthened her grip.

"Your voice resonated with your heart. Your voice resonated with the song. You were just expressing your inner turmoil in a different way." Kyrie's hand loosened as they both stared at each other.

"What's your problem?" Noel averted his gaze once more.

"Sorry. I know I should mind my business. I'm-" Noel was suddenly cut off.

"I didn't mean that" Kyrie sighed, "what I meant was, why are you always so sad and unsocial?"

"I'm not" Noel stammered. It was his turn after all.

"Liar" Kyrie smirked.

"I'm serious" Noel tried to no avail.

"Look" Kyrie was getting a bit annoyed, "I'm not asking you to marry me or something. I just asked why you're so sad. Talk. Explain. Clearly."

"Ladies first" that was all Noel could manage.

"Nice one" Kyrie replied with a mock smile, "now talk."

Everyone he knew had always said that lying was not his forte.

"I'm depressed and suicidal" Noel stated.

"Cool" was Kyrie's reply. Now it was Noel's time to be confused.

"Sorry. I just found it funny how you said it like it's no big deal. Soâ€¦. Why don't you jump?"

"Excuse me?" Noel was even more confused.

"Just saying" Kyrie's smile disappeared, "I mean, if you really are suicidal, then why don't you jump?"

"Don't know. I guess I'm afraid".

"Afraid of death or afraid of living the people you love behind?"

He really didn't think of it like that. He didn't make friends because he didn't want to make his passing troublesome but there was still his mom to consider. There was also Bokhramon. _What do I say? _He tried to avert his gaze again and thankfully saw his saving grace. He saw a small white shadow chase after a green one. Kyrie must have seen something in his face that made her turn.

"Crap" that was probably what Noel heard before the girl took off.

"Wa-wait" he didn't know why he said that as he took off running too. He was convinced the white shadow was Bokhramon. He didn't pay attention to the ringing of his cell phone as he ran.

Ms Keith had no luck in getting her son to pick up the mobile phone. Anxiety was written all over her face.

"Trouble?" Julia's mother was standing by her side.

"He's not picking up the phone" Ms Keith started to get hysteric.

"Calm down" the short brown haired woman replied. "Getting frantic won't help â€œ"

"You don't understand!" came the sudden outburst. "He might-" Susan's line of thought was interrupted by the blessed ringing of her phone.

"Noel!" She cried into the phone.

"I'm alright, Mom" the sound of his voice was like the call of an angel. "I have something to do. Don't worry. I'll be alright." He hung up.

"Thank God" Susan hugged the phone tightly against her chest.

Katie was silent throughout.

"Umâ€¦ I'm sorry about that" Susan hung her head down.

"So that's why you don't leave your house" Katie deduced.

"Yeah..." Susan replied, "I'm afraid he mightâ€¦..He hasn't been the same since John passed away. He used to be so lively. When John left, he had taken Noel's will to live along with him to the grave." She was close to tears.

"Death does that. It's like a dreaded chain." Katie recalled the day of Peter's passing. "He's selfish to think it only affected him."

Susan looked at Katie.

"Just like me" Katie suddenly remembered that she had a daughter.

"Children are beautiful aren't they?" Susan smiled. "They're like flowers. So fragile. Yet so beautiful."

"You're following me?" Kyrie cried out in outrage while running.

"I'm not" Noel was slowing down. His legs were burning and his lungs weren't drawing anything. Before he knew it he found himself stopping. "Curse my lack of exercise." Kyrie was gaining distance. He'd lose Bokhramon's trail like this.

"Gotta find a few shortcuts" he said in between breaths. He glanced at the hedges. _I will remember this for the rest of my life._

After catching a few breaths he started his dash again this time jumping over hedges and fences. This was the best shortcut he could think off. Noel had gotten a few curses thrown at him for his recklessness but his heart was beating too loudly for him to understand. The sweat streaks fell like rain drops across his face. He felt something.

Does a dead person feel adrenaline?

He felt a burning sensation. _I'm alive?_

He jumped once more as he caught a glimpse of the black haired girl. _I will remember this for the rest of my life._

He ran. He ran until he ran into something. No someone.

He was lying on the grass. Out of breath. He saw the world upside down. He saw the hazel eyes staring at him.

"You idiot" she was probably thinking. But no she kept staring. The two lay strewn about the grass, heads tilted to face each other.

Their hearts were beating in harmony. _Was that possible?_

"How's it feel to be alive?" The girl spoke up.

"Not too bad" Noel replied.

"You wanna run some more?" Kyrie smirked.

"No thanks" Noel smirked.

"What are you two doing?" Noel found himself face to face with Bokhramon while Kyrie found a Digimon standing beside her. Said Digimon was a humanoid green bird. It had two purple beady eyes and a patch of feathers stood around its head like hair. Its arm feathers hid jet black claws.

"Where were you?" The two shouted indignantly at the Digimon.

"I was just chasing Qingmon" Bokhramon said as innocently as possible.

"I was just running" the bird Digimon stated in a deep voice.

"Very funny" Kyrie rose up.

When the effects of the run had disappeared Noel finally realized the situation. He too got up.

"Woah, wait a minute. You have a Digimon? You're a Chosen Child?" Noel's mind was plagued with questions.

"Well this got complicated" Kyrie sighed. "The answer is no. Qingmon doesn't have a partner yet. In case you were wondering, he hasn't decided on his partner."

"The choice was between-"

"My sister or me" Kyrie looked sad.

"You don't want your sister to be a Chosen Child, do you?"

"No. I've already lost someone because of this Chosen Child business. Not again."

"Your sister-"

"I know she hates me" tears began to well up in her eyes, "I know that well enough. It still doesn't change the fact that we're sisters. It still won't change my love for her."

Responding to hate with love? Why is she telling me this?

"I didn't want to know" Noel realized that he was getting too close to the girl. _Sever your ties and then spread your wings._

"You don't need to act like such a jerk" Kyrie saw through the façade. Through it all, Bokhramon and Qingmon stood silent observing the scene play out.

"I told this to you" Kyrie began, "because you would understand. You're a lot different from other people I've met. You worry a lot about hurting others. Do you ever worry about hurting yourself?"

"I don't think I'm worth it" Noel replied.

"Why? You think no one will cry when you leave? There are people who care about you. You just don't see that. You just reject all that. You're just like Wallace!"

"What is your problem?" Noel was taken aback. _Was Wallaceâ€|?_

"He just ran away from everything" Kyrie put her hands on Noels' shoulders. "You need a reason to live? Then I'll be your reason."

"It's none of your business" Noel was stammering.

Kyrie started to calm down after that.

"I'm sorry" Noel was backing away, "It's just I don't want to hurt anyone."

"No, I should be sorry. We hardly know each other all that well and Iâ€|"

"Don't sweat it" Noel smiled, "I guess I'll be going." The blonde boy carried Bokhramon away.

"What was that all about?" Qingmon asked when the boy was out of hearing distance.

"I don't know. When we talked, we understood each other. I could see him for what he was. I don't know him well enough but I think I saw something different today. I don't know what came over me. I think I saw a part of me in him."

"How so?" The bird Digimon piped.

"He wants someone to understand him for who he is." Kyrie was staring at the sky as it slowly turned a shade of mauve.

"I don't get it"

"Let's get my guitar before someone steals it" Kyrie let out a laugh before going deadpan serious, "if someone does, you're buying me a new one feather head."

-xxxx-

Tom found himself waiting at the Heathrow Airport. Lysandre had requested him to go about meeting with someone who was on his way from Germany. He decided to go with it even though it was quite late already. He kept looking out towards the runway hoping for the plane to arrive soon. According to the schedule the plane should be here soon.

His wish was probably granted as he soon saw a large body of metal land. Hopefully that was the plane he had been waiting for.

Henry Dunbar. That was the name of the person he was to escort. He observed the crowd of people soon coming out from the plane that landed.

A tall, fair man wearing a slate grey suit soon came out from the crowd. He had black hair and beard and wore square spectacles. He was definitely the person Tom was looking for. He waved his hand and soon went to greet him.

"You must be Dr. Dunbar" Tom sounded as cordial as he could.

"Yes. You must be Tom Morgan. It's a pleasure to meet you." Despite his gruff appearance, his voice was cool and controlled. There was no hint of arrogance that one would expect from a man of his stature.

"The pleasure is all mine. I hope the flight wasn't too rough" Tom shook hands with the professor.

"After a certain point, none of them feel any different. That is what I think from my experience." Dr Dunbar gave a wry smile.

"Is that so? Well we should be going. The car is waiting outside. I'll drop you off at your house." It was at that did the Professor grow quiet. He looked to be lost in thought. Tom could only wonder that he said something wrong.

"Is something the matter?" Tom asked.

"No. Please drop me off at Lysandre's lab. I'll go to my house later."

Tom was taken aback. He rarely found anyone willing to go straight to work after a long journey. He could only guess that Dr Dunbar had some difficulties back home. Nonetheless he complied with the request and escorted him to the car.

Once both Dr Dunbar and Tom got in, Tom closed the door of the Mercedes sedan and told the chauffeur to drive them to the lab.

"It shouldn't take too long. The road is almost devoid of traffic" Tom said.

"So Mr Morgan, I've heard you are quite an accomplished man."

"It's nothing that amazing sir. Just a degree in systems analysis and communications." Tom knew how renowned the man who sat beside him was. Dr Dunbar had earned fame through his research on and his joint project with Lysandre regarding something they dubbed "adaptive programming"- programs that would continuously evolve and adapt to fit their purposes better. It was still in its early stages but it showed promise. Its uses were unlimited from evolving antivirus systems that would revolutionize network security to even medical uses should it be perfected.

"So what do you feel about your future?" Dr Dunbar asked a simple question.

Truth be told, Tom had never thought about it. "Why do you ask, sir?"

"No reason in particular. It's just that sometimes you find that you have everything and yet you find yourself empty and unhappy as if you never had anything." The professor's eyes were closed as he seemed to be recalling something.

"Probably marry the girl of my dreams and live the rest of my life with her" Tom spurted out an answer.

Dr Dunbar looked pleased. "That would be ideal." He looked at Tom for awhile and gave a sad smile.

"You remind me of someone. Those eyes gleaming with intelligence. You remind me of my son."

"Your son?" Tom asked.

"Yes. His name is Eric."

6. Diamond in the Night Sky

Chapter 6: Diamond in the Night Sky

Kevin was waiting. He might have been a bit early. It was almost 6. He decided to lean against a tree and let the time pass.

He saw a tall young man with black hair and spectacles come in through the gate. The young man was carrying two cups of coffee.

"Oh, hey" Eric approached Kevin, "nice to meet you."

"Yeah" Kevin replied pretending to be unenthusiastic.

"Here's one for you" Eric handed Kevin a cup of coffee from the local Starbucks.

Kevin thanked him and began to drink his coffee.

"So" Eric began, "you ready for tomorrow's game?"

"Cut the chit-chat and get to the point" Kevin sported a frown.

Eric sighed. He wanted both of them to relax but apparently that wouldn't happen. "How should I begin?"

"How about you tell me why you called me here?" Kevin stared intently at the other teenager.

"To discuss future plans for the Chosen Children" Eric got serious, "we don't have much time."

"Why?"

"I'll explain after more members have gathered. It's a bit lengthy after allâ€¦"

"Better not be hiding anything" Kevin threatened.

"I'm not" Eric was unfazed. "I'll just tell you this. Our battle ain't gonna take place in this world."

"The Digital World?"

"Yeah. We have to assemble the team as fast as possible and travel there."

"What about the Digimon coming to our world?"

"All in due time" Eric replied to which Kevin grunted. "Tomorrow's a big day. Expect something like that night to happen again."

Kevin knew very well what he meant. "You can't be serious."

"The probability is high" Eric summarized, "I'm not sure just what will arrive through that portal. That's why I'm asking you to wait until I give the signal to attack."

"You want Viperdramon to be the trump card?"

Eric nodded. "I also want to limit the destruction to the city so I want you to bring out Viperdramon only when there's no other option."

"I get it."

"There's also some leftover Digimon from Wednesday night."

"How many?"

"Three. I'm having Astralmon search for them. "

"So tell me, what about the other Chosen Children?"

"What do you want to know?"

"How do you plan to recruit them?"

"Julia and Hiran will be present on Sunday. From there I'll let them know. That leaves two more."

"Two more?" Kevin was evidently confused.

"One of us has already left for the Digital World."

"Great" Kevin remarked, "What else?"

"Nothing much for now. Any questions?"

"Yeah, how come you're so serious about this?" Kevin glared.

Eric tried to return the glare. "You think I'm some kind of nerd who doesn't have a life. I don't care what you think. We're dealing with something that concerns both worlds. I'm not the kind of guy who likes to live his life like an ignorant idiot. People think that knowledge is a burden-they think it's better to live in ignorance than suffer the pain of knowing. I'm not running away. I know what I have to do. I hope you do."

"You talk too much. You assume too much too" Kevin's remark made Eric curious. "I just asked you what made you decide to accept this. You were given a choice, right?"

"I have nothing to lose. That's why I decided to do this." Eric maintained his cool and calm attitude.

"Are you suicidal or something?" Kevin asked.

"No, that would be my friend Noel" Eric replied. "I'm an atheist."

"Interesting" said the person who did not find the spoken fact interesting at all. "Any reasons?"

"It's a personal decision. I just don't believe in miracles and stuff. I can't find myself clinging to hope. It's a weakness. Hope and miracles are born from ignorance and I hate ignorance. No offense though if you're religious or something. If you want I can just shut up."

"Great. I'm assuming all of the other Chosen Children have some mental issues." Kevin decided to sit on a bench.

"I guess. So what about you Mr. I act like a tough guy? You really love to act like Batman, don't ya? You even talk like him."

Kevin was taken aback. In this short conversation Eric had seen through his façade while Kevin didn't get any worthwhile notions on Eric's true colours. "None of your business, Cyclops reject" Kevin snapped.

Eric sighed. From his observations, Kevin would make a fine leader for the Chosen Children. Provided he kept his temper in check.

"Say, how about you be the leader?" Eric proposed.

"Why me?" Kevin was a bit hesitant at the idea. It was not because he lacked the confidence but the weight on his shoulders could crush him. He could be emotionless and distant if he tried hard enough. It would just be like all those years back when he kept up his image as a tough loner.

"I don't think the others are qualified. Don't worry; I'll be by your side giving you all the information you need."

"Then why don't you be the leader?" Kevin snapped.

"I don't want to. It's as simple as that." Eric replied bluntly.

Kevin thought why such a cool, calm and collected teen, almost lacking emotions, would decline such a position.

"No one would take me seriously. Some of this stuff is crazy as it is and you look like the guy who could command respect when he wants it to. All we have to do is keep our stuff together."

"That's a dangerous way of going about it" Kevin remarked.

"We don't have a choice. We don't have time."

"You're talking like it's gonna be the end of the world soon."

"Cause it is" Eric replied, "and we're the only ones who can stop it."

Kevin nodded before walking past Eric. "See you tomorrow, then" Kevin muttered as he was leaving.

"Yeah." Eric decided to leave. He had some hunting to do after all.

-xxxx-

The night was beginning to fully engulf the skies of London and it was at night that deadly shadows roamed. On top of a building that overlooked a small portion of the large city was a black humanoid beast. A bipedal muscled creature covered in brown fur with only its face, feet and hands being blood red loomed. It had blood red eyes and a deadly mouth that would give any carnivore a run for its money. To complement its fierce appearance were two bone-like protrusions jutting out from its shoulders.

The beast moaned softly. It had made a mad dash towards the portal hoping to escape the Digital World. Now it found itself in an unknown environment without any allies.

A sudden noise alerted it and as it turned it saw a shadow move. The beast readied its arms for an attack but the shadow appeared right in front of it.

The shadow was a very tall, yet skinny black demonic Digimon with torn wings. It put its hand on the beast's forehead.

"This shouldn't hurt at all" the shadowy newcomer muttered as

electricity flew out from its claws and struck the beast. The beast was stunned for awhile. Awhileâ€¦

Waking up with a roar, the beast leaped down to the road and started rampaging.

"Destroy everything you see" the demon Digimon cackled after it said those words.

The black Digimon turned his head for a moment to observe what was behind it. It saw a blue human like blob but it was only for a moment before a light encapsulated the new comer.

The demonic Digimon knew it had now had a fight on its hand.

-xxxx-

Julia had found it surprising how a friendly suggestion she made at a whim was suddenly the present reality. She had thought that a family dinner would be a great way to cheer her mother up but she knew implementing said suggestion would take some time. To her surprise when her mother had come back from shopping, she instantly hugged Julia and said she was sorry for neglecting her. Julia didn't know what her mother had encountered during the shopping trip but she was happy nonetheless. She offered her suggestion to which her mother agreed.

Julia was sorting through her purse. She felt her Digivice inside and recalled what Virtuemon had said. "Be careful and take the Digivice with you. Digimon should be more active during the night. If there's trouble just summon me."

"What's the matter, Julia?" Her mother asked.

"No, it's nothing" Julia replied, "have you decided on what you want to eat?"

"No, not yet."

"It's okay" Julia went back to looking through the menu.

"So, how are your studies going?" Julia's father asked. He had a full time job at the bank and so rarely found time to spend with his family. It was after Peter passed away that Russell Verde decided to spend more time with the remaining members of his family. He had taken a much more active role that was not restricted to go to work, come back home, sleep and repeat.

"Good." Her father was always concerned about her studies but never pressurized her.

"So you're still going to be a top vet?"

"Yeah" Julia replied with a smile.

Russell's phone began to ring. He left the table to answer it.

"How is Noel and Eric?" Katie asked.

"Eric is like himself. Noelâ€¦|.." Julia stopped to think what she would say.

"He's still finding a reason to live, isn't he? I met with his mother yesterday."

Julia remembered how Noel and she had become friends. They were like seven or eight when they met. Their mothers were already friends before them. Julia first saw Noel alone in the swing during recess. Julia had asked why Noel wasn't running around like the other kids.

"I just wanna go home" she could remember how he whined saying that school was no fun since he didn't have any friends.

"Why don't you make some friends?" Julia asked.

"I don't want to" Noel began to cry, "I just wanna go home. Why does mom send me here?"

Julia was taken aback by the sudden tears. She thought she had caused it. "Hey, don't cry. I'll be your friend if you stop crying."

Noel had put his hands over his ears. "Go away. You'll be bored being my friend. You won't like me."

Julia had put her hands over Noel's hands. "I promise, I won't."

"You promise?" the tears were stopping.

Julia reassured him with a smile and from then they became friends. They had recruited Eric a few days later and from then till now they were inseparable. _Aren't we?_

"Such a nice child. I pray he finds his way" Katie woke up Julia from her reminiscence.

"Yeah. I hope he does" Julia said.

"Oh my, we haven't ordered anything yet, have we" Katie smiled.

A loud thunderous crash was heard.

"What was that?" Julia found herself scared.

"Mo-monster" the cries rang out to which Julia bit her lips.

She quickly searched for her Digivice.

-xxxx-

Cybermon did a leaping strike but Devimon back stepped out of the way. Devimon proceed to lash out with his claws but Cybermon vaulted over Devimon and proceeded to use his DNA Slasher attack on the black demon. Devimon countered the blade strikes with his claws which were powerful enough to hold the blades black. Sparks flew as blades clashed with claws.

Cybermon ducked dodging Devimon's claw thrust. Building up strength

within its legs, Cybermon suddenly jumped at Devimon tackling it. Cybermon later spun hitting Devimon square in the chest with its serpentine forked tail. The nimble strike caused Devimon to fall off the roof and land on the street.

The alien Digimon pursued its prey as it leapt intending to skewer it. Devimon met the attack head on with an uppercut causing both of them to recoil back.

Devimon was quick to recover and struck Cybermon hard with its long arm sending the victim flying into a building.

The jet black demon's left hand was charging a purple energy blast. It was intent on finishing its attacker off. With a slashing motion the energy blast was fired but soon collided with a stream of blue and yellow electricity. The collision was powerful enough that the shockwaves started ravaging the street. Streetlights turned on and off without any rhythm. Both attackers were at a stalemate until the blasts dissipated.

"Cybermon" the Virus Digimon could hear the voice of his partner speaking through his Digivice. This was only possible once a link had been made.

"Charge yourself up with electricity", Eric suggested to which the Digimon complied. Yellow lightning burst out from Cybermon's body and formed something akin to an armor of shifting energy. Devimon knew that the fight would get more difficult. The demon Digimon decided to destroy his opponent while it was powering up and fired another energy blast.

It was an easy feat to dodge a stray blast like that as Cybermon moved twice as fast as before. Like a lightning bolt the Virus Digimon zipped towards Devimon slashing him across the chest leaving severe burn marks and then kicking him.

"Curse you" Devimon was still recovering from the pain on his chest.

A flash of lighting fell on the black Digimon in the next instant sending out a tower of smoke which Cybermon proceeded to dive into.

Dazed by the smoke the Virus Digimon made a spinning cut but Devimon quickly grabbed onto its bladed arm. In the next moment Devimon thrust his other arm into Cybermon's abdomen.

A violent tearing motion followed with a shattering sound.

The lower half of Cybermon's body stood for a few seconds, wires that acted as a spinal cord cackling with electricity. With a twitch, it fell down. The upper half was dangling loosely as Devimon held onto the arm he had grabbed. The black demon let go of the severed body as it fell down lifelessly.

Devimon was slowly walking away from the remains of his opponent. More of his skin was burned off from that attack which made moving difficult. As he walked away, he heard a peculiar noise akin to the gushing of water. His left hand charged up with energy. He turned suddenly and fired the attack.

â€|which collided with a stream of electricity. Both the attacks faded away upon impact indicating how both fighters were exhausted.

Astralmon, who had reverted back after expending all his energy in the last attack, started backing away. Regeneration was a special ability of his but forcing his body to recover from a deadly wound like that in a matter of seconds took its toll. He sacrificed strength and integrity for faster recovery that left his body loosely bound and frail. A weak physical attack could easily destroy him at this state.

"Retreat for now" Eric commanded. Astralmon did as he was told. Progress was made with Devimon not deciding to follow him with injuries to tend to.

"I was careless" Eric replayed the battle in his mind realizing his mistakes. "I rushed too much. Damn it."

"We injured it quite a bit" Astralmon noted as he finally found a computer at a store which he could use to get back to Eric's house.

"Yeah, at least it won't be present tomorrow to make our lives worse. Get back home, alright." Eric got off his bed as he left to watch some television. There was nothing more he could do for tonight anyways.

Astralmon jumped into the computer screen and disappeared in an instant. He however failed to notice a strange bug like Digimon chewing through the power lines. A shade of dull yellow with black thunderbolt like markings on it; the bug had a voracious appetite. As it devoured the through the cables, electricity surged through its body as an ominous light heralded its transformation.

In its place was now a giant yellow fly with purple baleful wings. The wings started to flap as a buzzing sound accompanied it. With that it disappeared into the night sky.

-xxxx-

The black beast had sent shivers down her spine. That smile. It was just a glimpse and yet Julia knew that if she did not run death would be upon her soon enough. Grabbing her mother's hand tightly she made a run for it. "Save us, Virtueemon" she prayed whilst running.

There was a back door to the restaurant which they had used to escape towards the street. The sound of tables and chairs breaking were still audible. So was that strange yet hideous sound that Julia swore she would never forget. "Bodies being crushed" the thought instantly made her sick but she didn't stop.

"Julia!" that sound was the best thing she had heard up to now.

"Virtueemon" Julia looked relieved. Only for a moment.

From the corner of her eye she could see the black shadow on the other side of the glass. "Duck!" Julia told her mother a few

milliseconds before the glass erupted into shards.

"Tail Spin" Virtueemon was quick on her feet, jumping and lashing out at the beast with her twin tails. The attack hit Wendigomon straight in the jaws causing him to back away.

"Julia!" Fear ripe in Katie's voice.

"I'm fine, mom" the girl said rubbing the blood from her cheek. In ensuring her mother's safety she had gotten a few cuts.

Wendigomon slammed his fist into the pavement but Virtueemon evaded and went straight for its legs. She launched her tails like a pair of whips at the beast's left leg causing Wendigomon to cry out in pain. Managing to get behind Wendigomon, Virtueemon proceed to wrap its tails around the beast's neck it pulled with unexpected strength causing the victim to fall flat on the street.

"Virtueemon, watch out!" Wendigomon grabbed onto the tails strangling it and pulled them apart. With one strong pull the black beast tossed the small Digimon into the street.

Julia was horrified. Virtueemon lay there still while the beast sported a toothed smile at her and her mother.

"Don't you dare lay a finger on my family!" Russell pelted Wendigomon with rocks.

"Russell!" Katie screamed knowing how suicidal that was. In a flash Wendigomon switched its target and grabbed Russell with its hand.

The scream was mortifying. The sound of bones beginning to crack slowly seeped into Julia's ears. She was scared. She was scared of losing another loved one.

"Julia!" Katie screamed as the girl she called out to ran towards the monster.

"Hey, ugly!" Julia taunted throwing some rocks to further provoke Wendigomon.

It worked.

"Glittering Blitz!" a shining ball of energy exploded right on Wendigomon's chest causing it to drop Russell. "Whatever Julia holds precious, I'll protect it" Virtueemon slowly stood up.

"I already lost my brother." The beast turned its gaze towards the girl, readying its fist.

"Julia!" Both parents called out.

"I won't lose anyone else!"

Primary Digital Matrix Set

Accessing Evolutionary Code

Designation: Regalmon

Code: ADLT1165

Digital Evolution Processâ€¦| INITIATE

The familiar words were spoken as a light began to envelop Virtuemon.

"Diamond Force!" a voice called out from the light as a shield of bright white light appeared in front of Julia not only stopping Wendigomon's punch cold but repelling him away.

Julia looked towards the light that died down. In place of Virtuemon was a much taller and elegant form of Virtuemon. It had a golden fur coat on that reached the ground with its two tails wrapped around its neck. 6 jewels were floating behind her. Two small wings adorned the back of the coat. Its golden eyes had lilac streaks under them and the feathery ears grew taller. With a slow graceful walk Regalmon approached Wendigomon who towered over her. Regalmon pushed Julia back.

Julia could see it in those golden eyes. "I'll handle this."

Wendigomon slashed at Regalmon but the Digimon dodged it with ease. The beast opened its mouth letting loose a massive sound wave. Regalmon countered with her Diamond Force attack, where the 6 jewels behind her came together to form a white hexagonal shield that caused the sound wave to dissipate. With a gentle flick, Regalmon sent the shield slamming right into Wendigomon causing it to crash into a nearby car.

The black beast Digimon rose up from the rubble, seething with anger. Its red eyes were glowing. It looked frantically but couldn't find the enemy. It finally looked up.

On top of a building stood the Digimon it was looking for. Behind her was the moon. Wendigomon watched as Regalmon's hand slowly rose to point at it, the jewels beginning to shine brightly before disappearing.

Wendigomon suddenly noticed its body disintegrating from the light being emitted from the 6 jewels. The beast lashed out in vain but by all that was left was but a few strands of data. The dark figure disappeared completely amidst the light.

Regalmon jumped down and proceeded to walk towards Julia while both parents stood bewildered by what had transpired.

"Thanks" Julia hugged the Digimon that saved them. Regalmon gently stroked her partner's head.

Katie and Russell both slowly approached. Julia turned her head towards them.

"Mom, Dad, I know you aren't exactly keen on having Virtuemon aroundâ€¦|." Julia tried to explain but was cut off by the sudden tears swelling in Katie's eyes.

"Thank you" Katie said to Regalmon in between sobs. "You protected my

daughter."

Regalmon silently nodded.

-xxxx-

"Hang on, I'm opening the door" Eric shouted as he came down the stairs. He didn't need to open the door though. It was someone who wasn't welcome.

"You!" Eric had only disdain for the "guest".

"Sonâ€¦" Prof. Dunbar tried to find something to say.

"What?" Eric barked. "So you remember you had a son?"

"Ericâ€¦"

"Don't give me that crap!" Eric cried, "You weren't even there by mom's side when she was dying. You even knew that from the beginning! What made you think that I'm supposed to welcome you here?"

Prof. Dunbar took a step back.

"You weren't there for me either! You just left me while you stuffed yourself in that lab of yours. Did you ever think of that?"

William Dunbar felt the resentment overwhelming him. "I understandâ€¦" and with that he left.

When the door finally slammed close Eric slumped to the floor.

"Damn it" he cursed as a single tear fell on the wooden floor.

** -xxxx- **

**Author's note: I hope none of you were offended by Eric's words. Deeply sorry if that is the case. **

End
file.